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account) in the districts of the Madras State for 1948-49 was specially compiled in January 1950 and a copy of the statement * is laid on the table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER :—" Questions are over."

SRI VAVILALA GOPALAKRISHNIAH :—" On a point of order, Sir. *చాంబర్స్* *డబ్బు* *అసలు* *లేదా* *చెప్పి* *మల్లా* *డబ్బు* *చెల్లించారంటారు,* *a.m.* విమోచ ? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" We are going to sit till seven o'clock to-day. It is not a point of order that has been raised by the hon. Member. It could not be discussed. Secondly, the hon. Member should learn that when the Chair is on its legs, he should resume his seat."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not as if hon. Members do not want to obey the Chair. What really happens is that the Speaker is accustomed to speak very fast and it is not possible for new Members of the House to catch what the Hon. the Speaker says. Therefore, Sir, some slow exposition of the procedural etiquette will enlighten Members better."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I am surprised to hear these remarks from the hon. Member who has been in this House for the last six years."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" This is a submission which I have made on behalf of all; it is not with reference to me, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER :—" What the hon. Member raised is not a point of order."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" On a point of information, Sir. I came to know that a Privilege Motion had been given notice of by the hon. Member Sri Gopalan Unni. I wish to know what has become of it."

MR. SPEAKER :—" If the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition wants to have information about it, let him come to my Chamber and I will give him the information."

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR THE YEAR 1952-53—cont.

(1) DEMAND IV—FOREST.

* THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" On the recommendation of the Governor, I move, Sir—

' That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 83,48,000. under Demand IV—Forest.'

" Mr. Speaker, Sir, in moving this Demand, I wish to make as briefly as possible a statement on the Forest policy of the

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Government. The Forest Department in this State administers a total area of 18,827 square miles of reserved forests besides an area of 3,500 square miles of estate forests that have been recently added, making a total of about 22,000 square miles. The Chief Conservator is the administrative Head of the Department as well as the technical adviser to Government in matters relating to forest administration. He is assisted at headquarters by a Personal Assistant and an Administrative Assistant, six Conservators, five of whom are each in charge of a territorial circle. There are 32 territorial divisions and each division is organized into ranges, each being in charge of a Range Officer, while each range is made up of several beats.

The Budget appropriations for the Department under this Demand for 1951-52 and 1952-53 are as follows :—

	Revised Estimate for 1951-52.	Budget Estimate for 1952-53.
	RS.	RS.
General administration ..	1,90,400	1,98,100
Conservancy and Works ..	36,37,400	35,21,300
Establishments ..	42,22,800	46,13,000

The keynote of the Forest policy of the Government is to work the forests to the best advantage according to the prescriptions contained in the Working Plans and on a scientific rationale dictated by silvicultural considerations and regenerational necessities.

The present area of reserved forests in the State is 18,827 square miles which includes 3,389 square miles of ryots' forests, which works out to less than 15 per cent of the total land area of the State. The target is 25 per cent and the policy of the Government is set towards securing an equitable regional distribution of the forests conditioned by the physical, agricultural, industrial and defence requirements of the State and towards developing the existing resources to their optimum benefit.

The management of ryots' forests by elected panchayats under the control of the Revenue Department was a failure and the Government have, therefore, re-orientated their policy in this regard. It will be recalled that the Forest Panchayats were organized in 1925 and they have had almost fully a trial of more than 25 years and it is unfortunate that these panchayats were not a success. The agency of administration has been, therefore, switched over from the Revenue Department to the Forest Department and excepting a segment of about 336 square miles still under panchayat management, all the remaining panchayat reserves have come under the control of the Forest Department. The aim of the department is to repair the evils that had overtaken the panchayat forests under the quondam management due to over-grazing, denudation, etc., and to rehabilitate the forests. Working plans are under preparation to regulate their exploitation, regeneration, etc.

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“Consequent on the abolition of zamindaris, estate forests, about 3,500 square miles in extent, have been taken over by the Forest Department and some more remain to be taken up, and working plans will be drawn up to regulate the exploitation and regeneration of the estate forests that have been taken over.

“Till July 1948, the Government were imparting forest education through the Forest College, Coimbatore. The management of the College has now been transferred temporarily to the Government of India for a period of four years from the 1st July 1948, to be run as a Central Government Institution in Forestry. Seats are reserved in the College for trainees belonging to this State.

“To regulate the exploitation of private forests, the Government re-enacted in 1949, the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act of 1949. Legislation to amend the Madras Forest Act of 1882 so as to enforce and secure the scientific management of private forests is under consideration.

“The main activities of the Department in regard to afforestation, regeneration, etc., will be dealt with in detail after the cut motions have been moved, but it may be germane here to delineate the main features of the programme of work. Large-scale plantations of teak and other hard woods to meet the timber requirements of the Government Departments, Railways, Co-operative House Building Societies, private institutes, etc., of soft wood species to cope with the ever-increasing demands of the match and plywood industries, of wattle to supply indigenous vegetable tanning material to the tanning industry of pyrethrum for the manufacture of pyrethrum extract for use in anti-malarial and pesticidal operations, and of casuarina to meet the fuel requirements of the people at large, have been taken on hand and are worked out on a phased programme. During the Vanamahotsava, the Department concentrated on tree-planting in all the divisions and distributed seeds, saplings, etc.

11-20
a.m.

“Sir, I told the House what the expenditure of this department was and I wish now to tell them that during 1950-51, the Department realized a net revenue of Rs. 186.26 lakhs as against Rs. 164.80 lakhs obtained in the previous year.

“Sir, I now move that this Demand be granted.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Motion moved—

‘That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 83,48,000 under Demand IV—Forest.’

I allot two hours for the discussion on this Demand.”

* SRI R. SIDDANNA GOWD:—“Sir, I move—

‘That the allotment of Rs. 83,48,000 for Forest be reduced by Rs. 100.’

While moving my cut motion, I wish to refer to the wide disparity in the existing grazing fees between the departmentally-managed forests and those which were being managed till recently, by panchayats and which have now been taken over by the

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Forest Department. I also wish to discuss the policy of closure periods and the restriction on cattle grazing. In this connection, I also wish to suggest some measures for putting down corruption among the subordinate staff.

“ We should congratulate ourselves on the allocation of this subject to the Hon. Dr. Nagan Gouda, who has spent his lifetime in the midst of agriculturists and there need be no difficulty for him to understand the difficulties, the needs and the requirements of the villagers, especially those residing in the vicinity of forests.

“ There are also some cut motions the movers of which question the wisdom of the transfer of the forests from the panchayats to the Forest Department. It is too late in the day to question the wisdom that has led to the transfer of these forests from the panchayats to the Forest Department. I am very sorry to say that panchayat forests were not efficiently administered. Therefore, I, for my part, do not question the wisdom of those who were responsible for taking over the management of these forests from the panchayat administration. Nevertheless, I feel it my duty to request the Hon. Minister to pay his attention to some of the hardships that the ryots are often subjected to, at the hands of petty subordinates of the Forest Department. In this connection, let me refer to the Grazing Notice for 1951-52, for the Anantapur Forest Division, item 4, wherein the Forest Rangers and foresters have been authorized to issue permits to graziers. Sir, about forty years ago, there were, what was called, permit-issuing *gumasthas* appointed on a temporary basis for a period of three or four months, or on a commission basis. Then, they used to visit villages to issue grazing permit to villagers. Now the issuing of permits by the Rangers, especially, by the foresters leads to corruption. Firstly the foresters are often found absent from their houses and they are not accessible to the villagers when they come for taking permits. Secondly, as soon as the money is paid to the forester, the forester is not in the habit of giving permits for all the money that he receives. Sometimes, he gives permits for 50 per cent of the money that he receives and sometimes, he does not give permits at all. Sometimes, he evades giving permits, telling that he has urgent work and that the villagers might approach him later for a second time. When that forester is transferred, the villagers have to pay grazing fees once again. Under these circumstances, it is absolutely necessary in the interests of the villagers that the old system of issuing permits by permit-issuing *gumasthas* either on a commission basis or on a temporary basis, should be revived so that we can wipe out corruption. (At this stage, the Deputy Speaker occupied the Chair.)

“ Sir, I now refer to the wide disparity in the existing grazing fees between one reserved forest and another in the Anantapur district. The grazing fees for departmental reserves are as follows: For a buffalo it is 8 annas; for a cow 4 annas; and for a sheep 2 annas and 9 pies.

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“ As regards Chittoor district, the grazing fee for a buffalo is 6 annas; for a cow 3 annas; and for a sheep $\frac{1}{2}$ anna and 6 pies.

“ Now I come to the forests managed till recently by panchayats. In the Penukonda and the Madakasira taluks, the grazing fee for a buffalo is 1 rupee; for a cow 8 annas; and for a sheep 4 annas. In the reserved forest in Vayalpad range, the grazing fee for a buffalo is 12 annas; for a cow 6 annas; and for a sheep 3 annas. In the same Vayalpad range, in the Neradikonda reserved forest, the grazing fee for a buffalo is 8 annas; for a cow 4 annas; and for a sheep 2 annas. In the Madakasira North Sankaragallu reserved forest and the Hottabetta forest the grazing fee for a buffalo is 1 rupee and 4 annas; for a cow it is 10 annas; and for a sheep it is 5 annas. It is high time that grazing fees were fixed at uniform rates for all the forests throughout this State. Sir, I urge the immediate abolition of this discrimination. Only if it is abolished, the ryots will be saved from heart-burning. I am sure that the Hon. Minister or the Chief Conservator of Forests will not plead that there is superior pasture in forests where higher grazing fees are being collected.

11-30
a.m.

“ Sir, now I come to the question of closure periods. There are what are called open season and closure season. In the months of June and July, some of the so-called panchayat forests are closed for grazing, whereas in all the departmentally-managed forests this restriction is not at all enforced. Formerly, even in the departmentally-managed forests, there was a closure period lasting for two months. But its enforcement was found to be impracticable, for there was hardly any unassessed waste land outside the forest area to allow the cattle to graze, and so what is called the closure system was then abolished. Unfortunately, this system is being continued in the so-called panchayat forests giving rise to a lot of corruption and difficulties. It is within the common knowledge of the hon. Members of this House that there is hardly any unassessed waste land outside the forest reserves for allowing the cattle to graze. It is, therefore, reasonable to expect from the Hon. Minister that this closure period will be abolished, in order that the ryots may be saved from the clutches of the subordinate officers and also in order to bring those forests to the level of Government reserved forests.

“ Thirdly, Sir, there is also restricted grazing with regard to the animals that are admitted into forests. Even in this respect, there is a distinction between the Government reserved forest and those which were being managed by panchayats. In the Government reserved forests, all herds of cattle are allowed to graze, whereas in the panchayat forests, all animals are not allowed to graze. There is what is called a limitation of cattle. Only a certain number of cattle fixed in accordance with units are allowed to graze. If a ryot possesses 100 sheep this year, next year he may have 150 sheep or 200 sheep. If a ryot owns this year 50 cows, next year he may have 100 cows or they may increase to 200 cows. In such cases, when the permit for the next year comes to be issued, the permit will be issued only for the number of cattle for

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which the ryot had already held the permit in the previous year. That is, he will not be given the permit for grazing the entire cattle he has during the current year. Under these circumstances, the ryots are forced to offer bribes to the subordinates of the Forest Department. It is high time that this system of closure period and this restriction on the animals to be allowed to graze were abolished. Therefore, I deem it my duty to request the Hon. Minister to remove this limitation on grazing of cattle.

"I now come to another point, namely, the removal of fodder and fodder leaves. Sir, although the ryots are allowed to remove head-loads of fodder free of cost, as also leaves, they are harassed by the subordinates of the department in doing so. For example, they are not permitted to take sickles with them. I can understand the forest subordinates forbidding the taking of axe, which may be used for the illicit cutting of branches and small trees. But why should they forbid the taking of sickles? Without sickles, how can the ryots cut the grass and leaves? Can anybody cut branches of trees and small trees with sickles? Sir, this prohibition of taking sickles causes much heart-burning to the ryots. This rule leads to false prosecutions of ryots. So, I request the Government to see that in the proclamation notice issued for grazing, the forest subordinate officers are instructed to exempt sickles from being prohibited to be taken to the forests, so that the ryots may be able to cut fodder and leaves, unmolested.

"Sir, I now come to my next point. As per the rules now in force, the ryots are not allowed to take dry fuel from the forests. Sir, the forest subordinates should be made to understand that the forests exist for the benefit of the poor ryots. So, the ryots should be allowed to take dry fuel from the forests. They should also be permitted to take scrub jungle for fencing their crops and gardens. Even when they are prepared to pay the cost of dry fuel in the form of seigniorage, they are not allowed to take it. I request the Hon. Minister to allow the ryots to take scrub jungle out of the forest, for fencing their crops and gardens, even if it be on the levy of a nominal fee.

"Then, Sir, provision for water-supply in the forests should be made. For this, kuntas should be constructed. There are forests which have no kuntas to afford drinking water to animals. It is, therefore, absolutely necessary that small kuntas and tanks should be constructed for the use of the animals which go to graze in forests. Now that the Forest Panchayats are abolished, I request the Hon. the Minister for Forests to consider the question of appointing what are called advisory bodies to instruct the Forest Rangers and Foresters so that the harassment, oppression and corruption on the part of the subordinates may be stopped.

"Lastly, Sir, I come to this question of corruption and the collection of mamools by the various Forest subordinates. It is this corruption and collection of mamools that led to the institution of Panchayat Forests about thirty years ago and it has come out once again to the forefront in all its vividness and ugliness.

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Unless corruption and collection of mamools are stopped, Sir, the Government is bound to become unpopular and it will have to face the odium of the villagers at the next elections."

SRI VIRUPAKSHAYYA :—" Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demand under ' Forest '. Forests are not only very valuable for any and every country but much more so for an agricultural country like ours. They not only supply us valuable timber, sandalwood and other valuable products but they are also essential to maintain the livestock of the country which is very essential for an agricultural country like ours. Further, it has been held that the rainfall also depends upon the forests and their maintenance and, as such, I request the Government to see that indiscriminate felling of trees, which I now learn is very prevalent, is stopped. Bee-keeping and dairy farming must be encouraged, wherever it is possible. The new scheme of Vanamahotsava for raising the forest wealth of the country has got to be dealt with in a more serious fashion than at present. Of course, the Government take pleasure in reaching a big target and planting a number of saplings but, I am afraid, they are not bestowing as much attention as is needed to see that these saplings are reared properly. Statistics must be called for with respect to the number of trees planted and the number of trees that have actually grown. More attention of a serious nature has got to be bestowed over this Vanamahotsava.

" Sir, I am given to understand that in rural parts the authorities are very careful and very eager to auction away dead trees but they do not take the same interest in seeing that they are replaced by new trees. This question of replacement has got to be attended to. In our neighbouring State of Mysore, the nearest pattadar is saddled with the responsibility of raising a tree in the place of another which falls down or becomes dead. The pattadar has also got the right to carry away the dead tree. I think that at least this system which is working very well in Mysore should be introduced here.

" Sir, I also wish to bring home to the Government the fact that the Forest Officers are harassing the poor, ignorant and uneducated people who come into contact with them from day to day. They must try to educate these people about the forest laws and by doing so, they will not only get valuable co-operation from them but also very useful advice which would go a long way in keeping the forests intact. Instead of harassing the poor people who come into contact with them by resorting to prosecution in courts of law, they should educate them not to overstep the laws.

" I also wish to make a small suggestion in respect of the permits that are now being issued to the pattadars. A pattadar felling trees in his own patta lands is now asked to go to the District Forest Officer to obtain permits for transporting to his home these felled trees. I think, Sir, this has been causing incalculable inconvenience to the ryots. They have to go to the District Forest Officer with their applications after the trees are felled and are ready

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for transport. The District Forest Officer sends the application to the Forest Ranger who in turn sends it to the Forester who goes and checks whether the trees are ready for transport or not. The petition has again to retrace all these steps and reach the District Forest Officer who will eventually issue the permit to the pattadar, who, very often when he goes to the fields, finds that much of the valuable trees that he has cut down have already been stealthily removed. It can thus be easily seen that the pattadars are very much inconvenienced and a lot of trouble is given to them. Prior to the introduction of this system, the Village Officers used to issue such permits. I think this old system has got to be revived as otherwise the pattadars will be greatly inconvenienced.

"Another point which I wish to make is, Sir, that the Forest contractors, either with the knowledge of the Forest Officers or the Forest Officers winking at their actions, are allowed to transgress beyond the limits of their contracts. This has got to be checked rigorously.

"I have also got to make some other suggestions, namely, that free permits for grazing cattle should be given to landless labourers, and headloads of fuel should be allowed to be carried on payment of a very nominal fee. The forest roads are in a very bad condition at present. These roads are not only useful to the forest officials but they also serve as a means of intercommunication for the villagers who live in villages in the interior of the forests, and as such these roads should be maintained in good condition and later on transferred to the Public Works Department. With these words, I support the Motion and the Demand."

* SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :— "Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, ഈ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ വനനയത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ച സഭയുടെ മുഖ്യപ്പെടുത്തിയ ഒരു കക്ഷം പഞ്ചവത്സര പദ്ധതിയിൽ ഇന്ത്യ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് പാർപ്പിച്ച ഒരു നയവും തമ്മിൽ വളരെ അധികം വ്യത്യാസമുണ്ടെന്നു ചിന്തിക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ നയം 25 ശതമാനമെങ്കിലും ഭൂമി വനത്തിനു നീക്കിവെക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതാണെന്നു മുഖ്യ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. എന്നാൽ പഞ്ചവത്സര പദ്ധതിയിൽ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതാണു ഇവിടെ വായിക്കാം—Every tropical country should have a third of its area under forests—ഇതാണു പഞ്ചവത്സര പദ്ധതിയിൽ പറയുന്നത്. ഇവിടെ ഇന്നത്തെ നിയമം 15 ശതമാനം മാത്രമാണ് കാട്ടുള്ളത്. ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച ഇന്ത്യ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് വളരെ അധികം ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതാണെന്നു പത്രങ്ങളിൽ കാണുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഈ സംസ്ഥാന ഗവണ്മെന്റിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചേകത്തോളം പഴയ നയംതന്നെ തുടരുകയാണ്. വനത്തിന്റെ പ്രാധാന്യത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ച ഗവണ്മെന്റ് മനസ്സിലാക്കിയിട്ടില്ല. വനസംരക്ഷണം ഇല്ലെന്നു മാത്രമല്ല വനനശീകരണ നയമാണ് ഈ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് തുടരുന്നതു എന്നു എനിക്കു പറയാതെ ഇരിക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഇക്കമ്മിഷൻ യൂദ്ധത്തിന്റെ പേരിൽ അനവധി കാടുകൾ നശിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. നമ്മുടെ കാടുകളിൽ നിന്നു മരങ്ങൾ മുറിച്ചെടുക്കുക എന്നല്ലാതെ മുറിച്ച സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ പുതുതായി മരങ്ങൾ വെച്ചുപിടിപ്പിക്കുക എന്ന നയം ഗവണ്മെന്റ് സ്വീകരിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. വനസംരക്ഷണത്തിനായി, ഇന്നു ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ നീക്കിവെച്ചിട്ടുള്ള എൺപത്തിമൂന്നു ലക്ഷത്തിൽ ചിലവാനം ഉറപ്പിക്കുകയിൽ അഞ്ചിൽ ചിലവാനം ലക്ഷം ഉറപ്പിക്കുകയാണ് പുതുതായി കാട്ടു വെച്ചുപിടിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ നീക്കിവെച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതെന്ന് കാണുമ്പോൾ ഇതിന്റെ യാഥാർത്ഥ്യം മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്.

"മാത്രമല്ല ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ മറ്റു ഏതു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിനേക്കാളും ഏതുമ്പോഴാധികം corruption ഉണ്ടെന്നു ഗവണ്മെന്റിനുതന്നെ അറിയാം. നാജാമിതന്നെ ഈ

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Forest department ൽ വളരെ അധികം corruption ഉണ്ടെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു ഈ സഭയിൽ എല്ലാവരും അറിവുള്ളവരാണ്. ഗവണ്മെന്റു ലോറസ്റ്റുകൾക്കു സ.ബന്ധിച്ച യാഥാർത്ഥ്യം ഇതാണെങ്കിൽ, സ്വകാര്യ കാടുകളുടെ സീനീ ഇതിലും എത്രയോ അധികം ഭയങ്കരമാണ്. Preservation of Forest Act എന്ന നിയമം ഉണ്ടെങ്കിലും വാസ്തവത്തിൽ മരങ്ങൾ മുറിച്ചു എടുക്കുവാൻ ഇന്നു ഗവണ്മെന്റു ജനമാർക്കു അനുവാദം കൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അനുവാദം കിട്ടിയതിലും എത്രയോ അധികം മരങ്ങൾ മുറിച്ചു കൊണ്ടുപോവാനുണ്ട്. ഉള്ള സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം ഇന്നു ജനമിഷ്ടമാണ്. അതിനെ നിയന്ത്രിക്കുന്ന Range officer കൾ കറുപ്പു പണം കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു മാത്രമേയുള്ളൂ. ഈ പോറസ്സ് ഇന്നത്തെ സ.ബന്ധിച്ചു പറയുമ്പോൾ ഈ കാടുകളിലെ നിവാസികൾക്കുവേണ്ടി ഗവണ്മെന്റ് ഇന്ന് യാതൊന്നും ചെയ്യുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു ഒരു പരമാർത്ഥം മാത്രമാണ്. ഏതെങ്കിലും നിയോജകമണ്ഡലം അട്ടപ്പാടി ലെയുടെ അടിവാരത്തിലാണ്. ആ രാജ്യത്തു താമസിക്കുന്ന പതിനായിരക്കണക്കിലുള്ള നിവാസികൾക്കു വൈദ്യുതസൗകര്യവും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ സൗകര്യങ്ങളും ഒന്നും ഗവണ്മെന്റു ചെയ്യുകൊടുക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നു പറയാതെ ഇരിക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. പിന്നെ പറയുവാനുള്ളതു ഈ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ മരം മുറിക്കുവാനുള്ള കരസ്ഥം കൊടുക്കുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണ്. ലക്ഷക്കണക്കിൽ ലൂറപ്പിക ഇറക്കേണ്ടിവരുന്ന ചില കരാറുകാരാണ് ഗവണ്മെന്റു കൊടുക്കുവുള്ളത്. ഒരു ലോട്ടായി നാലു ലക്ഷം അഞ്ചു ലക്ഷം ലൂറപ്പിക കൊടുക്കേണ്ട കരാറുകൾ എടുക്കുവാനുള്ള ത്രാണി നമ്മുടെ കയ്യാടുകാർക്കും കമ്പനികൾക്കും ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലില്ല. ചെറിയ ചെറിയ തീപ്പെട്ടിക്കമ്പനികളുടെ ആരോപണങ്ങൾ ഇതിനുമുമ്പുതന്നെ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽപ്പെട്ടുവെട്ടിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇത്ര അധികം സാധ്യ കൊടുക്കാൻ കഴിയാത്തതുകൊണ്ട് ഒരു വിദേശീയ കമ്പനിയായ വിംകോ (Wimco) കമ്പനിയാണ് ഇവയെ കരാറുകൾ എടുക്കാൻ പരിവൃ. ചിലർ കാടുകൾ ലേഖത്തിനെ വരുമ്പോൾ സാധാരണക്കാരെ ലക്ഷക്കണക്കിൽ കഴിയുന്ന രീതിയിലും ഒരു നിയമം ഇവയെ കമ്പനികൾക്കു തന്നെ കൊടുക്കുന്നു. അങ്ങിനെ നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തിലുള്ള ചെറിയ ചെറിയ തീപ്പെട്ടിക്കമ്പനികളുടെ അധഃപതനത്തിനുള്ള ഉത്തരവാദിത്വം ഈ ഗവണ്മെന്റുതന്നെ ഏറ്റെടുക്കണം. ഇതു വളരെ അധികം പ്രാവശ്യം ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ പെട്ടുവെട്ടിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള കമ്പനികൾ ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി പറയുകയും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇതിന്നു നല്ലൊരു ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടായ ഒരു മനനയം ഗവണ്മെന്റു സാധിക്കാതെ ഇരിക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഇന്നുവരെ അനവധി കാടുകളുടെ സാധ്യകാര്യം നാട്ടുകാർക്കു സ്വന്താവശ്യത്തിനുമേണ്ടി ഈ കാടുകളിൽനിന്നു ചുള്ളി വിറകു എടുക്കാനുള്ള സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യമില്ല. ഈ കാടുകളിലും കുന്നുകളിലും കുന്നുകൾക്കു മേയ്ക്കാൻ വിട്ടാൽ അവയെ പിടികൂടുകയും fine ഇടുകയും ചെയ്യും എന്നുള്ളത് നീഷ്പമാണ്. ഈ നയം മാറ്റി എവിടെയെല്ലാം കാടുകളുണ്ടോ അവിടെയുള്ള ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കാടുകളുടെ ആവശ്യകത പറഞ്ഞ് മനസ്സിലാക്കിട്ടു ജനങ്ങളുടെ സഹകരണത്തോടുകൂടി കാടുകൾ നന്നാക്കുവാനുള്ള പരിപാടി ഗവണ്മെന്റ് സ്വീകരിക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച കൂടുതൽ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ ഗവണ്മെന്റു ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഈ മനനയത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽപ്പെടാത്ത സംഗതികൾ അന്വേഷിക്കുവാൻ ഒരു Expert committee യെ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് നിയമിക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ ഗവേഷണങ്ങൾ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണ് ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധ പതിക്കേണ്ടതെന്ന്. കോയമ്പത്തൂരിൽ ഒരു Forest College ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നത് ഇപ്പോൾ ഇന്ത്യാ ഗവണ്മെന്റിനെ ഏല്പിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നത്. അവിടെ നമ്മുടെ കുറെ ആളുകൾ പഠിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുതന്നെ മരങ്ങൾ എങ്ങിനെ വളർത്തണം, എങ്ങിനെ സംരക്ഷിക്കണം എന്നിവയെപ്പറ്റി പറ്റിപ്പിക്കാത്ത കാര്യമൊന്നും ഈ മനനയത്തിനു യാതൊരു ഗുണവും ലഭിക്കുവാൻ പോകുന്നില്ല എന്നു മാത്രമല്ല ഇതു വളരെ അപകടം പിടിച്ചതാണെന്നുകൂടി ഗവണ്മെന്റിനെ രാജീവ് ചെയ്യുവാൻ അതിനു ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നു.

* SRI D. RAMABRAHAMAM :—“**అడవులు, ప్రస్తుతము మన ముందు ప్రశ్నలు** పంటి యీ అడవుల దేహండును ఆహుతిస్తున్నాను. ఈ అడవుల శాఖలో 11-50 ఎం. ప్రస్తుతము మన ప్రభుత్వంవారు అడవుల పెంపకములో చాలా ఆశ్రద్ధ దూషకులైనా చెబుతున్నాను. అడవుల మన అడవుల యే శీతాశ్రమముతో ఎట్లు తగ్గవునో తెలుసు. యీ అడవుల శాఖ ముందు 11-50 ఎం. విభజనచేస్తున్నాను. మొదటిది వాతవ్యు పెంపకము, రెండవది ఉత్పత్తి, మూడవది ఉత్పత్తి సేకరణ. యీ అడవుల అభివృద్ధి విషయములో ప్రత్యేక గ్రాంట్లు

[Sri D. Ramabrahmam] [23rd July 1952]

(grants) మంజూరు చేసి, అడవులను అభివృద్ధిచేయ ప్రభుత్వమువారిని కోరుతున్నాను. రిజర్వు అడవులలో సారవంతమైన బయళ్లు అనేకం వున్నాయి. వేలాది చెట్లు ఈ అడవుల బయళ్లలో సరిగా పెరిగివున్నప్పుడు అడవుల సొపన పెరగగలదు. ముఖ్యంగా వందనపు చెట్లు పెంపకం విషయములో శ్రద్ధవహించవలెను. మన స్టేటులో, Sandalwood Factory లు ఆరు వున్నవి. అందులో ఆంధ్రదేశములో మూడు, తమిళదేశంలో మూడు ఉన్నాయి. వీటినుంచి నూబది, యేబది లక్షల ఖరీదచేయు sandalwood టన్నును ఫ్యాక్టరీలవారు కొంటున్నారు. యీ చెట్లను అడవులలో అక్కడక్కడ పెంపకముచేసి, వాటికి తగిన వసతులు కల్పించవలసిందని ప్రభుత్వం వారిని కోరుతున్నాను. అంతే కాకుండా యీ అడవులలో యింకా అనేక రకములైనటువంటి ముడివస్తువులు, లభిస్తున్నాయి. మన రాష్ట్రంలో అడవుల సరిహద్దులలో కొన్ని కుటీర పరిశ్రమలకు విర్యాటుచేసి యీ విర్యాటుమెంతు నేకరించుచున్నటువంటి ముక్తిపదార్థములు యీ కుటీర పరిశ్రమల అభివృద్ధికి తోడ్పడుటకు వీలుకలుగ చేయవచ్చును. యీ పరిశ్రమలలో పనులు చేయుటకు ఎంతోమంది కార్మికులు కావలసివుండును. కనుక రాష్ట్రంలో విత్తబడచేయు వారిని, సరైన దారుధ్యముగల వారి నందరిని యీ పరిశ్రమల వృద్ధికి కేంద్రీకరించవలెను. యీ విషయంకు విత్తబడవల్ల బ్రతుకుచున్నవారు చాలామంది ఉంటున్నారు. వీరిని విత్తబడచేయకుండా ఒక శాస్త్రసాన్ని ప్రభుత్వంవారు విర్యాటు చేసి యీ పరిశ్రమల వృద్ధికి సహాయించిన బాగుండుకని నేను ప్రభుత్వంవారికి సలహా యిస్తున్నాను. యీ విషయంపై దినమునకు రెండు, మూడు సభాయలు సంపాదించుకొనడమవల్ల, వేరే కూలిచేస్తే అంత భావ్యరావని, సోమశనముచేత యీ విత్తబడకు అలవాటుపడి యున్నారు. ఇంకనూ వీరు చిన్న చిన్న దొంగతనములు కూడా చేస్తున్నారు. ఇందువల్ల మన స్టేటు ప్రజలు చాలా దురవస్థలకు పాలౌతున్నారు. టువంటివారిని, యిప్పుడు ప్రభుత్వంవారు విర్యాటుచేసి Beggar homes లిసివేసి, యీ కుటీర పరిశ్రమలకు అలవాటు చేయవలసిందిగా ప్రభుత్వంవారిని కోరుతున్నాను. ఇట్లు చేసిన ఎడమ యీ కుటీర పరిశ్రమల స్వయంపోషకంగా మూడు సంవత్సరాల కాలములో నిర్వహించవచ్చునని నేను అభిప్రాయపడుతున్నాను. యీ అడవి పరిశ్రమల విషయంలో Rural Welfare Department చేసేటటువంటి కార్యాలన్ని పంచాయతీ బోర్డుల ద్వారా, ప్రభుత్వంవారు కొంత గ్రాంటును యిచ్చి, వాటిని స్వయం పోషకంగా నెలకొల్పవలెనని ప్రభుత్వంవారిని కోరుతున్నాను.

“ఇక నా నియోజకవర్గము అయినటువంటి పల్లనేరు తాలూకా రెండు భాగాలుగా వున్నది. కొంతభాగము రైతువారి ప్రాంతముగాను మరొకంత భాగము జమీందారీ యీశ్వరాలలోను వున్నది. రైతువారి ప్రాంతంలోని కొన్ని గ్రామాలలో Forest reserve లు గ్రామ సరిహద్దులలోనే వున్నవి. అక్కడ Forest ఉద్యోగిగ్గులు రైతులకు అప్పుడప్పుడు కొన్ని యిబ్బందులు పెట్టుకూ ఉంటారు. ఈ తగాదాలలో కొన్ని అభిప్రాయభేదాలు ఉన్నప్పుడు ప్రభుత్వంవారినుండి కొన్ని ఉత్తరువులు కావాలని వుంటున్నారు. యిటువంటి యిబ్బందులు ఈ రైతులకు కలుగకుండా వారి అనుకూలనికి అనుగుణంగా ఈ రిజర్వులైన విర్యాటు చేయవలెనని ప్రభుత్వంవారిని కోరుతున్నాను. ఇక జమీందారీ ప్రాంతాలలో, ప్రభుత్వంవారు వారి ఎస్టేటులు స్వాధీనపరుచుకుంటున్నారనే ఉద్దేశ్యంతో యీ జమీందారులు చాలా అక్రమాలు జరుపుతున్నారు. మా చిహ్నం జిల్లాలో మూడింట రెండు భాగాలు అన్నీ జమీందారీ ప్రాంతాలే. యీ జమీందారులు అడవులను అంతటను కొట్టించి నాశనముచేశారు. యీ అడవులు

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అంశ జిల్లాలో చాలావరకు పోయాయి. యీ జమీందారులు un-reserved forest ప్రాంతము సంతయును ప్రభుత్వంవారికి స్వాధీనము చేయకుండా వుండాలనే దురుద్దేశ్యంతో లాగడ చేదలతో కొన్ని పట్టాలను యిచ్చివేశారు. రైతులు చాలామంది యీ జమీందారుల పరీకుతో చాలావరకు unauthorised cultivation చేసుకుంటున్నారు. రైతులయొక్క మేకలు, పశువులు, గొర్రెలు మొదలగు పశుజాతిని మేపుకొనకుండా యీ జమీందారీలు, యీ ఆక్రమ పట్టాదారులు యిబ్బందులు పెడుతున్నారు. జమీందారులు, యింకా సర్వే కాక పోషడమువల్ల రైతులు ఈ యిబ్బందులకు గురి అగుచున్నారు. కనుక ఈ reserve line ను త్వరలో సర్వే చేయించాలని ప్రభుత్వంవారిని కోరుతున్నాను. గనుక రైతుల మేకలు, గొర్రెలు మొదలైనవి మేపుకొనేటందుకు వీలుగా త్వరలో ఈ unreserved-line షిక్లరు చేయించి unauthorised cultivation లో ఉన్నటువంటి పట్టాదారులను తొలగించి ఈ పేద రైతులకు యిబ్బందులు లేకుండా తగు అవకాశాలను కల్గించాలని ప్రభుత్వంవారిని కోరుతున్నాను.”

* SRI K. VENKATRAMANA GOWDA :—“ Mr. Deputy^{12 noon.} Speaker, Sir, while speaking in support of the Demand on Forests, it becomes my duty to urge the Government to realize the difference in the conditions of Malnad and elsewhere.

“Malnad is a region of hill and dale and forests, scattered homesteads, and sparsely populated villages isolated by numerous rivers and streams which will be flooded during the major part of the year on account of excessive rains ranging from 150 to 300 inches. It is lacking in facilities of communications and is extremely malarial. Its people, composed largely of scheduled and backward classes, are illiterate. Thus, it is seen, that the Malnad area is under-developed. The Malnad tract of South Kanara district extends to nearly three hundred villages along the foot of the Western Ghats.

“In the past, important criticisms have been levelled against the Administration concerning Malnad. One is that the economic potential of Malnad has not been adequately developed. In the matter of public revenue and expenditure, Malnad is a surplus tract. It can easily become surplus in the matter of production also, if adequate and sustained efforts are made. In these days of shortage of food, Malnad can easily become the granary of the adjoining parts, if properly developed. There are, in South Kanara, even according to Government figures, about 24,000 acres of wet lands included in ryots' pattas, for which they continue to pay assessment, formerly growing paddy but which are now lying fallow for various reasons, the chief of which are firstly prevalence of malaria and secondly want of communications. There will be another 10,000 acres of level land with plenty of water and without tree growth included in the reserved forests of Government fit for paddy cultivation. The district of South Kanara is deficit in food by at least 10,000 tons of rice. These 34,000 acres, if brought under cultivation, can give immediately 15,000 tons of rice without any large outlay. These areas of the district offer the best prospects for immediate food production on account of the

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perennial water-supply in them and also, of the availability in plenty of labour in the coastal tracts of the district.

"Another important criticism is that because of its remoteness from the seat of Administration, it does not receive the attention of the Government in a fair or appropriate manner in respect of all ordinary amenities like Education, Medical Relief and Communications in particular. Now, for seven months in the year, from the middle of May to the middle of December, the Malnad area is cut off altogether from the rest of the State. Marketing of produce cannot be done. Even Government timber in the vast reserves of these areas cannot be transported. District Board Rural Dispensaries in these areas do not get medical men, for nobody cares to go and live in places wherefrom they cannot move for months together. And even patients in serious cases cannot be moved to hospitals in taluk headquarters. Government officials find it difficult to visit these areas during these months even for official purposes. Primary schools are situated miles apart. There is not even the daily postal service to some of the important places in them. Such are the miserable and pathetic conditions of the people of Malnad tracts.

"It is but just that as in the case of less fortunate communities, these backward regions should receive not only the treatment that other fortunate areas receive, but something additional and special to bring them into line with those developed areas.

"Besides the necessity of dis-reservation of suitable forest lands for cultivating food crops and for raising other commercial produce, numerous grievances arise to the ryots from the severity of the administration of the Forest Laws. These relate to, among others, protection of crops from wild animals and infection by pests, and control of malaria. Anti-malarial operations of Government have brought down the incidence of malaria to a large extent and they should be continued, sustained and expanded further. By pushing back forest enclosures to a reasonable distance of one mile from cultivable lands and by grant of gun licences liberally, crops can be protected. Issue of free permits to ryots on a permanent basis for the use of water from forest streams, allowing rights of way and relaxing the existing rules so as to liberalize the grant of timber and fuel required for *bona fide* domestic and agricultural purposes, and discontinuance of levy of grazing fees are matters which Government should concede in the interests of the ryots who are attached to forest areas.

"These and other allied problems have been fully represented by the ryots and the leading public to the 'Forest Grievances Enquiry Committee, South Kanara' which was constituted by the Government in 1950, to investigate the problems relating to the Malnad area in South Kanara and to suggest measures required to solve them and to improve the material conditions of the Malnad people. The Committee has reported long ago. The recommendations of the Committee do not involve expenditure by Government to any considerable extent. I, therefore, urge the Government to implement them without delay.

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"The function of a Welfare State is to improve the material condition of its people. Having stated briefly what is the condition of the Malnad people, it becomes the duty of the Government to formulate measures to improve them. The problems of Malnad are numerous. I have suggested only a few of them within my time-limit. To relieve the Malnad people from the difficulties arising from the forest reservation policy requires only sympathetic consideration and relaxation of the rules, while there is imperative need to take short-term measures to develop the backward conditions existing in the Malnad area by providing ordinary amenities like education, medical relief, communications and so on. For this, a Malnad Development Board may be constituted on the lines of similar bodies for other areas, to give special attention."

SRI K. VENKATANARAYANA DORA :—"సభాపతి, ప్రస్తుతము జమీందారి విరియాలను స్వాధీనం చేసుకొనేవరకు, అనగా మొత్తం విరియాలను ఈ విరియాలలో ఉంచే అడవులు జమీందార్ల స్వాధీనములో ఉండినవి. జమీందారులు తమ ఎస్టేట్లకు ప్రభుత్వము స్వాధీనము చేసుకొంటుందని ముందుగానే తెలుసుకొని తమ ఆధీనములో ఉన్న అడవులన్నీ వినాడో సరికివేసినారు. ఇది ప్రభుత్వం ఆధీనములోనికి వచ్చిన తరువాత ఈ అడవులన్నీ ఇప్పుడు రేంజర్లు, ఫారెస్టర్లు, గార్డులు వీరి చేతులో పడిపోయి, సర్వాధికారము వీరి చేతులున్నవారు. జిల్లా అధికారులు ఎక్కడో దూరంగా పట్టణాలలో ఉంటారు. గాన ప్రభుత్వంగా ఈ అడవులపైన, వీటిని నివసించేటటువంటి కొండజాతులపైన, సర్వాధికారము, సర్వస్వాధీనం త్వరగా ఈ రేంజర్లకు, ఫారెస్టర్లకు, గార్డులకు వీరికి ఇచ్చివేసివేస్తున్నది. అక్కడ ఉన్నటువంటి అనాథలు, నిరాధారులు అగుచుంటుంటే వీటి ప్రజాసౌకర్యానికి విలాటి సౌకర్యాలు లేకుండా, తుదకు కట్టుకొనుటకు గుడ్డ గాని, తినుటకు ఆహారముగాని లేకుండా, ఏవో తెంకలు, ఆకులూ అలకు, చీంతెక్కిలు తింటూ నానావస్థలు పడుచుండగా ఈ రేంజర్లు గార్డులు, మొదలగు ఉద్యోగస్తులు, కొబ్బరి కాయలు కావాలని, గుచ్చడికాయలు కావాలని, ఏవేవో తెచ్చిచ్చుని ఈ వీటి ప్రజాసౌకర్యాన్ని నానాపంపలు పెడుతూ ఉంటారు.

"ఈ కొండజాతులవారు ఇదివరకు అన్నట్లీ బోడు వ్యవసాయము చేసుకొని జీవించేవారు. అదికూడ ఇప్పుడు లేకుండా నిర్బంధించారు. ఈ వీటి ప్రజాసౌకర్యము అడవులలో వివిధ కొట్టుకోవాలన్నా ఫారెస్టర్లయొక్క అనుమతి కావాలంటారు. అయితే ఈ రేంజర్లు, ఫారెస్టర్లు, గార్డులు మాత్రము వారికి కావలసిన వస్తువులంతా ఎవరి అనుమతిలేకనే ఈ అడవుల నుంచి కొట్టించి తెప్పించుకొంటూ యుంటారు. అక్కడఉండే వీటి ప్రజాసౌకర్యము ఏమైనా తినుకుంటే వారిని మాత్రము పట్టుకొంటారు. యీనాడు అడవి ప్రదేశాలలో ఉండే కొండజాతి ప్రజలకు ఒక గోచి గుడ్డ తప్పితే మరేమిలేదు. వారి తిండి గురించిగాని, వారి స్థితిగతులను గురించిగాని విచారించే దిక్కలేదు. వీరికి ఎక్కడ రేపను దిపా ఉంటుందో, ఎక్కడ ఆహారము దొరుకుతుందో, ఎక్కడ గుడ్డలు అమ్మబడతాయో, వివిధ తెలియకుండా బాధపడుతున్నారు. ఇదివరకు ఉంటున్న వ్యవసాయానికి కూడ ఇప్పుడు అవకాశములేకుండా ఉన్నందువల్ల కొద్ది ప్రదేశాలలోని ప్రజలు బరిసన్న రాష్ట్రానికి వెళ్లిపోతున్నారు. అవిధంగా వీరికి సరియైన జీవనాధారము లేకుండా యున్నారు. వారికి ఉన్నదిఅంతా కర్రగొట్టడానికి ఒక గొడ్డలి, కట్టుకొడానికి ఒక గోచిగుడ్డ, ఇవి తప్పితే మరేమిలేదు.

[Sri K. Venkatarayana Dora] [23rd July 1952]

వారికి రాత్రి ఘాట దీపముకూడలేదు. వీరు కర్రచుట్టును అంటించుకొంటారు. అదే వీరికి దీపం అదే వీరికి అగ్ని. యీ విధంగా వీరు అన్ని విధాల వెనుకబడి ఉన్నారు. కనుక ఇటువంటి అనాగరిక అనాది ప్రజలను సంరక్షించాలంటే, యీ అరణ్యాలలో గుట్టలకు, టేకు, గంధపు మొక్కలు నాటించి వాటిని అభివృద్ధిపరచవలసి యుంటుంది. యీ కొండ ప్రజానీకానికి అవిధంగా సహాయం చేస్తేగాని, వీరు అభివృద్ధి చెందరు. ఇప్పుడు, వీరున్నటువంటి పరిస్థితులు చూస్తే యీ రెండు కాళ్ళ జంతువులకంటే, నాలుగు కాళ్ళ జంతువులే మేలు అనిపిస్తున్నది. తరువాత వీరికి తిండిగాని ఇతర ఆరోగ్య వసతులుగాని లేనందువల్ల ఎప్పుడు ఆనారోగ్యముతో జబ్బుతో కాళపడుతూ యుంటారు. వీరికి మందు, మాకు ఇచ్చే దిక్కులేదు. వీరికి దాదాపు నూరుమైళ్ళ దూరములో ఎక్కడా హడా వీలాటి సౌకర్యాలు లేవు. వీళ్ళ అతి గరి విచారించే నాథుడు లేడు. కడకు వీరి కష్టాలను గురించి మహాజను పెట్టుకోవాలన్నా కూడ వీలులేకుండా ఉన్నది. ఇటువంటి పరిస్థితులలో ప్రభుత్వముగాని యీ శాసన సభగాని వీరి స్థితిగతులను విచారించి వీరికి తగిన సహాయము చేయక పోవడం చాలా విచారకరంగా ఉన్నది. అడవులలో వీరు 4 కాళ్ళ జంతువులను తింటూయంటే, రేంజిల్లు, ఫారెస్టర్లు, గార్డులు యీ రెండుకాళ్ళ జంతువుల వీరిని తింటున్నారు. ఇంకా యీ రేంజిల్లు అడవి ప్రదేశాలలో తిరిగేటప్పుడు, డోలీలలో కూర్చుని అక్కడ ఉన్న కొండ ప్రజలతో మానించుకొని పోతూయంటారు. యీ డోలీలను నలుగురు నలుగురుగా మోసుకొని పోతూయంటారు. మొదలే వారు తిండిలేక అలమటిస్తూ యుంటే వారిని యీ ఉద్యోగులు యీ విధంగా నానావాదలు పెడుతున్నారు. ప్రభుత్వ ఉద్యోగులు ఇటువంటి అలవాట్లను అలవరచుకొంటున్నారు, అంటే ఇది సహించదగినది కాదు. ప్రభుత్వము యీ విధానాన్ని వెంటనే ఆరికట్టవలసి యున్నది.

“తరువాత యీ ప్రజలకు సరియైన ఆహారముగాని, ఇతర సౌకర్యాలుగాని లేకుండా నీళ్ళకు, ఎండకు ఇబ్బందిపడుతూ, అకులు అలకులు తినుచున్నందువల్ల ఆరోగ్యము కోల్పోయి, మలేరియా జ్వరముతో కాళపడుతూ ఉంటారు. అంటే కాకుండా మహాచి కూడా వస్తూయంటుంది. కాక, వీరికి యీ వ్యాధినుండి నివారించడానికి, టికా అనే వేసేటటువంటి ఏర్పాట్లు కూడ ప్రభుత్వం చేయలేదు. ఒక Health Inspector కూడ అక్కడికి రావడంలేదు. ఇటువంటి పరిస్థితులలో ఈ కొండజాతి అమాయకపు ప్రజలు. అరణ్యాలలో నానావాదలకు, రోగాలకు గురి అయి వచ్చిపోతున్నారు. కనుక వీరి విషయమై ప్రభుత్వము శ్రద్ధతీసుకొని వీరిని అభివృద్ధిపరచి, వీరికి తగిన సౌకర్యాలు కల్పించి, వీరిని సంరక్షించాలంటే, ఇదివరకు జమీందార్లు నరికివేసేటటువంటి ఈ అరణ్యాలను ఈరోజు అయినా పెంచి, వారికి ఆహార సౌకర్యాలు కలుగజేసి వ్యవసాయానికి కూడ అవకాశము కల్పించి, మరియూ వారికి ఆరోగ్య సదుపాయాలు కల్పించవలసిన కోరుతున్నాను ఈ ప్రజలు వ్యవసాయం చేసుకోవడానికి ప్రభుత్వమువారికి అప్పులు ఉచితార్థంగా ఇచ్చి సహాయముచేయవలసిన కోరుతున్నాను. అంతేగాకుండా, ఆ ప్రదేశంలో కోఆపరేటివ్ స్టోరీలు ఏర్పాటు చేసి, చౌక డిపోలు పెట్టించి వారికి ఆహారము, గుడ్డ, ఇతర వస్తువులు సులభంగా దొరికేటట్లు చేస్తూ, ఈ ప్రజా పరిపాలనలోనైనా వీరికి అన్ని సౌకర్యాలు ఉన్నాయని శాసన సభలో మాట్లాడేందుకు హక్కుండని, ప్రపంచంలో వీరికి కూడ స్థానముండని చెప్పేందుకు వీలుగా ప్రభుత్వము వీరిని సాంఘికంగాను, ఆర్థికంగాను అభివృద్ధి పరచవలసిన కోరుతూ విరమించుకొంటున్నాను”

23rd July, 1952]

SRI K. S. LAKSHMIPATHY NAICKER :—“கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, வன நிர்வாகத்திலே அனேக குறைபாடுகள் இருக்கின்றனவென்பதை நான் சொல்லிக்கொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன். சென்னை ராஜ்யத்தில் வன நிர்வாகமானது சரியான முறையிலே நடத்தப்படவில்லையென்பதைக் குறிப்பிடுகின்றேன்.

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p.m.

“முதலில், சர்க்கார் நிர்வாகத்திலிருக்கக்கூடிய வனங்களின் நிர்வாகத்திற்கும் ஜமீன் நிர்வாகத்தில் இருந்துகொண்டிருந்து, இப்பொழுது சர்க்காரிடத்தில் கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிற நிர்வாகத்திற்கும் ஏராளமான மாறுதல் இருக்கிறதென்பதை சொல்லிக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். குறிப்பாக, கால்நடைகளின் அபிவிருத்திக்காக வனங்களில் அதிகமான புற்கள் வளரக்கூடிய இடங்களில் கால்நடை வளர்ப்பதற்குச் சலுகை காட்டி, அவைகளை அங்கே மேய்த்துக் கொள்ளுவதற்கு அனுமதிக்கவேண்டுமென்பது என்னுடைய முதல் கோரிக்கையாகும்.

“இதற்கு முன்னால், இப்பொழுது நடைமுறையிலிருக்கும் சர்க்கார் நிர்வாகத்திலே வன பாதுகாப்பு என்ற தலைப்பின் கீழ், ஜமீன் காடுகளாக இருந்து, இப்பொழுது சர்க்காருடைய நிர்வாகத்திற்கு வந்திருக்கக்கூடிய காடுகளின் பாதுகாப்புக்காக போதுமான அளவு சிப்பந்திகளை வைக்கவில்லை. அதிலும், சில ஜமீன்களை சர்க்கார் வசப்படுத்திக்கொண்டதற்குப் பின்னால், அங்குள்ள காட்டு நிலங்களை சர்க்கார் நேரடியான பராமரிப்பில் வைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இன்னும் சர்க்கார் வசப்படுத்தாத ஜமீன்களில் காட்டு நிலங்களிலுள்ள மரங்களை அழித்து அவைகளை விற்பனை செய்து, அதனால் வரும் லாபத்தை அடைந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள் ஜமீன்தார்கள். இதைப் பார்க்கும்போது இந்த நிர்வாகமானது தாறுமாறாகத்தான் நடந்துவருகிறது என்று சொல்ல வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. ஒரு இடத்தில் அவர்கள் வன மகோத்சவம் கொண்டாடிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். மற்றொரு இடத்தில் வனங்கள் அழிக்கப்பட்டு வருகின்றனவென்பது சர்க்காருடைய ஞாபகத்திற்கு வந்திருக்கமுடியும். அவர்களுக்கும் தெரிந்திருக்கத்தான் கூடும். ஆனால், இதைப்பார்க்கும்போது நேர் எதிரிடையான விஷயங்களை நடந்துகொண்டிருக்கின்றனவென்பதை சர்க்காருடைய ஞாபகத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவராமலிருக்கமுடியாது. ஒரு இடத்தில் அவர்கள் செய்துகொண்டிருக்கிற வனமகோத்சவத்திற்கு எதிராக மற்றொரு இடத்தில் வனங்கள் அழிக்கப்பட்டு வருவதற்கு அவர்கள் எந்தவிதமான தடை உத்தரவோ அல்லது அவைகளை தடுப்பதற்கான வேலைகளையோ செய்திருப்பதாகத் தெரியவில்லை.

“கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொல்லும்போது, 1946-ம் வருஷத்தில் Preservation of Private Forests Act என்பதன் கீழ் சொந்த வனங்களை அழிக்கக்கூடாது என்பதற்காக ஒரு சட்டம் இருக்கிறதென்று அவர்கள் சொன்னார்கள். ஆனால் இப்பொழுது சர்க்கார் வசப்படாத, ஜமீன்தார்கள் அழிக்கக்கூடிய வனங்களைத் தடுப்பதற்கு அந்தச் சட்டம் இடங்கொடுக்காதா என்று கேட்கிறேன். இதனால் சர்க்கார் அந்த வனங்களையெல்லாம் அடையும்போது வெறும் மொட்டைக் காடுகளாகவும், ஒன்றுமில்லாத அழிக்கப்பட்டிருக்காடுகள் போன்ற காடுகளினதான் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. அதைத் தடுப்பதற்கான முயற்சிகளை இப்பொழுது எடுக்கத் தவறினால், ஏராளமான நஷ்டத்தை சர்க்கார் உண்டுபண்ணிக்கொள்ளுவார்கள் என்று சொல்லிக்கொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன். அதிலும் கால்நடைகள் என்று குறிப்பில் முக்கியமாக காடுகளில் வளரக்கூடிய வெள்ளாடுகளை மேய்ப்பதற்கு காட்டிலாக அனுமதி கொடுக்கவில்லை. ஆனால், காட்டிலுள்ள பலவிதமான தழைகளைத் தின்னக்கூடிய கால்நடைகளில் முக்கியமானவை வெள்ளாடுதான் என்று குறிப்பிடவேண்டும். பசுக்களைப்போல புல்லைமட்டும் தின்று வெள்ளாடுகள் ஜீவிக்கமுடியாது. காட்டிலுள்ள பலவிதமான தழைகளைத் தின்று அது வளரக்கூடியது. ஆகையால், நிலங்களுக்கு மிக அவசியமான ஒரு கிடைப்பதற்கும் விவசாயிகளுக்கு லாபகரமாக இருக்கக்கூடியதுமான வெள்ளாடுகளை மேய்த்துக்கொள்ளுவதற்கு காடுகளில் சிறிசில நிலங்களைப் பிரித்துவைத்து, அதற்கென ஒரு இடத்தை (ரிசர்வ் பாரஸ்டுகளுக்குள் நுழையாதபடி) தனியாகத் தேர்ந்து, வெள்ளாடுகளை மேய்ப்பதற்கு வசதி செய்து கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

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* SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN :—“ Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the cut motion. We all know of what great use a forest is to the country. People living in the areas surrounding the forests use the forests in a variety of ways. They graze their cattle and use the pliable plants growing in the forests for basket-making and similar cottage industries and also for large-scale industries. The foremost benefit the people derive from forests is rain. The green vegetation attracts clouds and the places in and around the forests get more rain.

“ I now turn to my own constituency which is in Udayarpalayam taluk. It can get water only by rain and not by any other means. In this taluk there are the estate forests and the Government forests. Government forests were managed by forest panchayats in olden days. Mismanagement by forest panchayats was the cause for the ruination of forests, and the transfer of the management from the forest panchayats to the Government has been for good. With regard to estate forests, the zamindars began to deplete them as soon as the abolition of zamindaris was decided upon. They earned profits by cutting and selling away big trees. They did not have proper control over the maintenance of forests. Thus, even before the transfer of the estates to the Government, there was ruination of the estate forests. After the Government took over the estate forests, they did not make adequate arrangements to preserve them. Many mahazars were sent by the people living in the areas surrounding the forests. But the Government did not take any immediate steps. In spite of repeated reminders, they never appointed adequate personnel to look after the forests. The result was that many acres of forest land were converted into cultivable waste. I would suggest to the Forest Department to take immediate steps on the matters represented as soon as it receives any representations from the people. Red-tapism in the Department should be put an end to as soon as possible. I also received mahazars from the people. I sent a representation complaining about the depletion of forests, but neither the Chief Conservator of Forests nor the District Forest Officer cared to send me a reply. The Government should see that at least the mahazars or representations preferred or forwarded by the representatives of the people are replied to for the sake of courtesy. I would give an instance of this practice. In the Government of India, if people make complaints, the Departments concerned are in the habit of acknowledging receipt of those complaints or representations as the case may be. If that method is followed here also, it will be beneficial to the people.

“ Then in some parts of the Tiruchi district, in the river beds casuarina trees are grown by the Forest Department. It has been represented by the people that those river beds are generally used for grazing purposes. If casuarina is grown in the river beds, they cannot be used for grazing purposes. But instead of the casuarina trees, it is suggested that if kodukkapulli trees are grown in the river beds, the dry leaves of those trees could be eaten by the cattle. They are a good fodder for the cattle and, therefore, the river beds, while being used for growing trees, can also be used for grazing

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purposes. Since both the purposes are served by growing kodukka-pulli trees, I would suggest that this step may be taken by the Government.

“ Lastly, I would make a suggestion with regard to the putting down of corruption. Next to the Public Works Department, this Department is the worst-stricken, if I may say so, by corruption. To stop corruption, the hon. Member Sri P. Ramamurthi suggested a few days back that village committees might be constituted. The Hon. the Chief Minister said in this connection that non-official committees would be of no use. I would suggest that some committees, not necessarily village committees, may be constituted. Here I want to say that if an officer or a clerk joins duty in any particular place, the people of the area begin to come into contact with him and judge him. Within about a month or two, that officer or clerk gains a reputation from the public whether he is honest or dishonest. So, the only question is how a dishonest person is to be caught and how charges are to be framed against him. I would suggest in this connection that a committee of non-officials and an official may be constituted for putting down corruption in the Department. A taluk may be taken as a unit for this purpose. The revenue head of the taluk may be the official member of the Committee which will include other impartial non-official members also. If such Committees are constituted and invested with powers of investigating allegations against officials, it will go a long way to put down corruption not only in the Forest department but in other departments of Government also. With these words, I support the cut motion.”

* SRI S. CHINNASAMI NAIDU :—“ கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, காட்டு இலாகா மந்திரி கோரியிருக்கும் இந்த மானியத்தை நான் மனப்பூர்வமாக ஆதரிக்கிறேன்.

“ என்னுடைய வட மதுரைத் தொகுதியானது நாற்பது மைல் நீளமும் முப்பது மைல் அகலமும் கொண்டது. இந்த நாற்பது மைல் நீளம், முப்பது மைல் அகலம் கொண்ட இந்தத் தொகுதி பூராவும் மலைகள் அடர்ந்த பிரதேசமாகும். இந்த மலைப் பிரதேசங்களிலே நூற்றுக்கணக்கான கிராமங்களிலே, பத்தாயிரக்கணக்கான ஜனங்கள் வசிக்கிறார்கள். சென்ற காலங்களில் அந்தப் பிரதேசத்திலுள்ள சில காடுகளை பஞ்சாயத்துக் காடுகள் என்றும், ரிசர்வ் செய்யப்படாத காடுகள் என்றும் இரண்டு பிரிவுகளாக ஒதுக்கி வைத்திருந்தார்கள். அந்த ரிசர்வ் செய்யப்படாத காடுகளில் விவசாயிகள் தங்கள் கால்நடைகளை மேய்த்துக் கொள்ளுவார்கள். தழைகளை ஒடித்துப் போவார்கள் நிலத்திற்கு உரம் போட. சுள்ளிகள் பொறுக்கிச் செல்வார்கள்.

“ ஆனால் தற்பொழுது அந்த ஒதுக்கப்படாத காடுகளையும் சர்க்கார் எடுத்துக் கொண்டதின் பயனாக அங்குள்ள விவசாயிகள் தங்கள் கால்நடைகளை மேய்ப்பதற்கு இடமில்லாமல் மிகவும் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். அதை கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் கவனித்து விவசாயிகளுக்கு அனுசூலமாக அந்தக் காட்டில் கால்நடைகளை விவசாயிகள் மேய்த்துக் கொள்வதற்கு வேண்டிய ஏற்பாடுகளைச் செய்து கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்பதாக நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.. அதேகாடுகூட அந்தப் பிராந்தியத்தில் இதற்கு முன்னால் காடுகளிலிருந்து நிலங்களுக்கு மிகவும் உரமான பசும் தழைகளை அறுத்துக் கொண்டு போவதற்கு ஒரு கட்டுக்கு இவ்வளவு அணை ஒரு வண்டிக்கு இவ்வளவு அணை கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று தாராளமாக நிர்ணயித்து விடுவார்கள். அதேபோல விவசாயிகளும் பணத்தைக் கட்டிவிட்டு தழைகளை அறுத்துப் போவார்கள். இப்பொழுது அப்படிச் செய்வது கிடையாது. முன்போலவே

[Sri S. Chinnasami Naidu] [23rd July 1952]

இப்பொழுதும் அம்மாதிரி பசும் தழைகளுக்கு தாரணை நிர்ணயித்து விவசாயிகள் தழை அறுத்து கொண்டுபோவதற்கு வேண்டிய அனுசூலங்களைச் செய்து கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்பதாக நான் கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களைக் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக அந்த வடமதுரைத் தொகுதியிலே வேலாயுதம் பாளையம் to மணக்காட்டூர் என்று சொல்லக் கூடிய ஊருக்குச் செல்லும் காட்டு ரோட்டை ஜில்லா போர்டிலே எடுத்துக் கொண்டு அதைச் செப்பனிட வேண்டுமென்று மக்கள் கேட்டுக் கொண்டார்கள். மதுரை ஜில்லா போர்டிலே நான் மேற்படி ஜில்லா போர்டு மெம்பர் என்னும் முறையிலே இதற்காக ஒரு தீர்மானம் கொண்டு வந்து இந்த ரோடை செப்பனிடவதற்கு சாங்கஷனும் வாங்கி வைத்திருக்கிறேன். காட்டிலாக அடிகாரிகள் இதற்கு அனுமதி கொடுப்பதற்கு காலம் கடத்திக் கொண்டே போகிறார்கள். அதை சீக்கிரம் அனுமதிக்கும்படி சர்க்கார் ஆவன செய்யவேண்டுமென்பதாக நான் கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“அந்த மலைப் பிராந்தியத்தில் அணைக்கட்டுகள் போடக்கூடிய நீர் ஓட்டமுள்ள அனேக இடங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. அதிலும் சர்க்கார் கொஞ்சம் கவனம் செலுத்தினால் உணவு உற்பத்தி பெருகிற்று மிகவும் நன்றாக இருக்குமென்பதாக நான் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக இப்பொழுது அங்கேயுள்ள காட்டிலா காடுகளுக்கும் வாட்சர்களுக்கும் மிகவும் குறைந்த சம்பளம் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. ஆனால் ஒரு மலையில் ஒரு சம்பளம், அடுத்த மலையில் வேறு ஒரு சம்பளமுமாக கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. அவர்களின் வாழ்க்கைக்குத் தேவையான சம்பளம் கிடைக்கும்படி எந்தவிதமான ஏற்றத்தாழ்வுமில்லாமல் கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் அவர்களது சம்பளத்தைக் கொஞ்சம் கூட்டியும் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்பதாக நான் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“கடைசியில் மதுபடியும் நான் கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் கோரியிருக்கிற மானியத்தை ஆதரித்து என்னுடைய பேச்சை முடித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

* SRI K. H. BOMMAN:—“கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே! காட்டிலாகா மந்திரி அவர்கள் பிரேரித்திருக்கின்ற மானியத்தை நான் மனப்பூர்வமாக ஆதரிக்கிறேன். அதேசமயத்தில் சில விஷயங்களையும் அவருடைய கவனத்திற்குக்கொண்டு வர நான் ஆசைப்படுகிறேன்.

“அதாவது 1948-ம் வருஷத்திலே வனமஹோத்சவம் என்ற திட்டம் ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டு வருஷா வருஷம் செடிகளை நட்டு காடுகளை வளர்க்கவேண்டுமென்று திட்டமிட்டும் வேலை செய்து கொண்டு வருகின்றார்கள். ஆனால் அதே சமயம் மற்றொருபுறத்தில் பார்த்தால் எத்தனையோ காடுகளை அழித்துக் கொண்டே வருகின்றனர். அது எனக்குத் தெரியும். என்னுடைய தொகுதியான நீலகிரி ஜில்லாவில் மலைப்பிரதேசங்களிலுள்ள காடுகள் பல அழிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன. அந்தப் பிரதேசங்களிலுள்ள பணக்காரர்கள் அங்கேயுள்ள அதிகாரிகளுடைய செல்வாக்கைப் பெற்று காடுகளையெல்லாம் அழித்து அந்தப் பூமியில் விவசாயம் செய்வதற்கான ஏற்பாடுகளைச் செய்துகொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். செய்துமிருக்கின்றனர். இதை யெல்லாம் சர்க்கார் கவனித்து இந்தக் காடுகளை அழிக்கப்படாமலிருப்பதற்கான ஏற்பாட்டை எடுத்துக் கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்பதாகவும் நான் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

12-30 p.m. “இருப்பினும் இப்பொழுது கனம் காட்டிலாகா மந்திரி அவர்கள் தன்னுடைய பிரசங்கத்தில் பைரெத்திரம் என்னும் மலேரியா தடுப்புக்கு உதவும் ஒருவித மருந்துச் செடிகள் பயிராகின்றது என்று சொன்னார்கள். எங்கள் ஜில்லாவில் நிறையப் பணம் செலவு செய்து நூற்றுக்கணக்கான எக்கரா நிலத்தில் பயிரிட்டு வந்தார்கள். ஆனால் அதில் எவ்வளவு பலன் சர்க்காருக்கு கிடைத்தது என்று சொல்லமுடியாது. கடந்த மூன்று வருஷங்களாக சர்க்கார் சாகுபடி செய்யாமலிருக்கிறார்கள், கடந்த இரண்டு வருஷங்களுக்கு முன்பு மேற்படி நிலத்தில் சில விஸ்திரணம் எலத்தில் விட்டார்கள். எம்ம் எடுத்தவர்கள் உருளைக்கிழங்கு விவசாயம் செய்து வந்து

[Sri Mr. Kune Rao]

[23rd July 1952]

లలో ఉండే రైతులు తమ పశువులను ఈ అడవులలో మేపుకొనేవారు. ఈ సౌకర్యములనుండిని ఈ నాడు కోల్పోయారు. వివాదాలే ఈ అడవులను ఫారెస్టు పంచాయతీల చేతులనుంచి తప్పించి ఫారెస్టు డిపార్టుమెంటు వారికి ఇచ్చినారో అప్పటినుంచి ఈ శాఖలలోని ఉద్యోగస్తులు అవలంబిస్తున్న నిరంకుశ విధానవల్ల పేద ప్రజలు ఎక్కువగా విధాన అన్యాయాలకు గురిచేయబడుతున్నారు. ఇదివరలో ఉండే ఫారెస్టు పంచాయతీల ప్రాంతాల్లో పేదవారిపట్ల కొంత కనికరించేవారు.

“ఫారెస్టు డిపార్టుమెంటు ఉద్యోగులు ఎంత నిర్ణయంతో ప్రవర్తిస్తున్నారో తెలియజేసేందుకుగాను ఓక ఉదాహరణను మనవిచేస్తాను. ముఖ్యంగా మా చింతలపూడి తాలూకావంటి ప్రాంతాలలోని మట్టి అంతగట్టిగా ఉండదు. నీరు పడితే కొట్టుకొని పోతుంది. ఆ ప్రాంతాలలోని పేద ప్రజలు ఈ మట్టినే ఉపయోగించి గోడలు పెట్టుకోవాలి. కాని ఈ మట్టి గోడలకు ఉపయోగపడదు. అందుచేత కంపత్ దడులు కట్టుకోవాలి. ఆ విధంగా కామవరపుకోట గ్రామంలో రైతులు దడులు కట్టుకుంటే ఆవి అధికారులు, ఉద్యోగులువచ్చి బలవంతంగా వీకి లీనుకొనిపోయి అడవి పుల్ల కొట్టారనే కేసుపెట్టి రైతులను కోర్టులనుట్టు తిప్పుతున్నారు. పేద ప్రజానీకం ఎంతో కాలం నుంచి తమ గ్రామాలకు సమీపాన ఉన్న అడవులనుంచి కంప తెచ్చుకొని ఇళ్ల మరుగుకు దడులు కట్టుకొనుటకు ఉపయోగించుకోవడం పరిపాటి. మా ప్రాంతాలు గవర్నమెంటు వారు స్వాధీనం చేసుకోని క్రితంకూడా జమీందారులు, మొఖసాదార్లు అనాధిపదంగా ఈ హక్కును గుర్తించేవారు. కాని ఈ నాడు అడవులు ఫారెస్టు డిపార్టుమెంటువారి చేతులలోనికి వచ్చిన తరువాత అటువంటి సౌకర్యముల నన్నిటిని రద్దుచేసి వేశారు. అనేక సందర్భాలలో పేద ప్రజలు అడవులలోని కంప తెచ్చుకొని దట్ల కట్టుకొన్నారనే కారణంచేత ఫారెస్టు ఉద్యోగులు ఈ దట్లను కూడా కూలదోసి వేస్తున్నారు. ఇది చాలా అన్యాయం. విండ్ల తరబడి రైతులు, మాల్లులు అనుభవిస్తున్న సమస్యలను బిక్కుబిక్కుడి తొలగించేయడం వల్ల ప్రజలు చాలా అపవృత్తి పడుతున్నారు. ఈ కష్టాలకు తోడుగా గ్రామాధికారులు, కరణం, ముకసములుకూడా గ్రామాలలోని పేద ప్రజానీకాన్ని ఎక్కువగా విధాల బాధలు పెడుతున్నారు. కూలి నాలి చేసుకొని జీవించేవారు ఎందు పుల్లలను విరుకొన్నాకూడా వారిపై కేసులు పెట్టి జరిమానాలు విధించేట్లు చేస్తున్నారు. అంతేకాకుండా అనేక సందర్భాలలో ఉద్యోగులు కంట్రాక్టర్లు మొదలైనవారికో లాలోగీ పడి చెట్లను కొట్టించి అమ్ముకొంటున్నారనికూడా మనవిచేస్తున్నాను. పేద మాల్ ప్రజలు ఎందుపుల్లలు విరుకుంటుంటే కేసులు బనాయించే ఈ అధికారులు ఎక్కువ అక్రమాలు చేస్తున్నారు. కాబట్టి ఈ అధికారుల చేతులలోనుంచి ఈ అడవుల పరిపాలనను తొలగించి పూర్వము వలెనే వాటిని ఫారెస్టు పంచాయతీలకు వప్పించవలసినదని మనవి చేస్తున్నాను. నాడే గ్రామాలలోని రైతులు, ఇతర మాజిజనం తాము ఆనుసృతంగా అనుభవించుచున్న హక్కులను కాపాడుకోగలరని మనవిచేస్తున్నాను.

‘ఇక జమీందార్లు, మొఖసాదార్లు ఎన్నేట్లు తమచేతులలో పున్నప్పుడు, ఖాములను సాగుచేస్తూ ఉన్న కొంతమంది రైతులకు రసీదులుగాని, పట్టాలుగాని ఇవ్వలేదు. ఎన్నేట్లును ప్రభుత్వం స్వాధీనంచేసుకొనిన తరువాతకూడా ఎంతో కాలంనుంచి సాగుచేస్తున్న రైతులకు పట్టాలు యివ్వక ఆ ఖామిని రిజిస్ట్రు అడవులుగా ప్రభుత్వం ప్రకటించింది. ఈ ప్రాంతంలోని సాగుకు వీలైన ఖాములలో రైతులు ఈ సంవత్సరం నుభుస్సైదు చేశారు. అటువంటి రైతులను ఖాములనుంచి తొలగించుటకు అధికారులు ప్రయత్నం చేస్తున్నారు. యెన్నిసార్లు పట్టాలు యివ్వమని, యిది అడవికాదు పది సంవత్సరాల

23rd July 1952]

[Sri M. Kufle Rao]

నుంచి మేము సాగుచేసుకుంటున్నామని అధికారకు పిటిషన్లు పెట్టుకున్నా ఆజాదకాలేదు. యిలా పంట భూములను రిజర్వు ఫారెస్టులుగా ప్రకటించటం యంత అవినేకమో అలా దించమని కోరుతున్నాను.

‘ఇదే విధంగా కృష్ణా జిల్లాలోని సముద్ర ప్రాంతములోనుండే పల్లెవారిపేటకూడా ఈ ఉద్యోగులు చాలా అన్యాయంగా ప్రవర్తిస్తున్నారు. ఈ సముద్ర ప్రాంతాలలో అడవులలోవర పెద్ద పెద్ద చెట్ల మీ పెరగవనే విషయం అందరకు తెలిసిందే. ఈ గ్రడే కాలలో మడచెట్లు అనే చిన్న చెట్లు మాత్రమే పెరుగుతాయి. వీటివల్ల హెచ్చు ప్రయోజనమేమీలేదు. ఈ చెట్లు క్రమం వంటపెరుగుగాను అకులను పక్షులల మేతగాను ఉపయోగపారు. యివి ఒక గజముకన్న పెరగవు. ఈ సముద్ర ప్రాంతాలలో నివసించే వారు చాలా పేదవారు. ముఖ్యంగా సముద్రంలో చేపలు పట్టుకొని జీవించడమే వారి వృత్తి. ఇదే వారి జీవనాధారం. సముద్రపు నీరు పోటువల్ల ఈ మడచెట్ల లోనికి వస్తుంది. ఆ సమయంలో చేపలు పట్టుకోవడానికి వల్లివారు వెల్లిచే అడ్డకాయలు వారిని ఎక్కువగా బాధిస్తున్నారు. చేపలు పట్టుకోవడానికి వచ్చినవారిపై చెట్లను కొట్టుకొని పోతుటకు వచ్చారని చెప్పి కేసులు పెడుతున్నారు. ఎంతో కాలంనుంచి ఈ వల్లివారికి ఈ ప్రాంతంలో చేపలు పట్టుకోవడం ప్రధానవృత్తి. కాని ఈ నాడు సముద్రపు ఒడ్డున ఉన్న ఇనుక ప్రాంతాలు కూడా అడవుల క్రింద classify చేయడంవల్ల వీడ ప్రజలు చాలా బాధలు పడుతున్నారు. ఈ విధమైన అన్యాయాలు జరుపుతుంటే ప్రజలు వివిధంగా ప్రభుత్వంపట్ల విశ్వాసం దూపుతారో గ్రహించగోర్తాను. ప్రభుత్వం వారు అనుసరిస్తున్న విధానాల పట్ల ప్రజలకు ఎటువంటి సద్భావంలేదు. ఈ విధానానికి ప్రజాభిప్రాయం వ్యతిరేకముగా ఉన్నది. మద్యపాన నిషేధంపట్ల ప్రజలు వివిధంగా వ్యతిరేక భావం కలగి ఉన్నారో అదే విధంగా ఈ అటవీ పరిపాలన విధానంపట్ల ప్రజలు వ్యతిరేక భావంకలిగిఉన్నారని గుర్తించాలి. అటవీశాఖ పరిపాలనలోవున్న అవకతవక విధానాలవల్లనే, అక్రమాలు జరుగుతున్నాయి. ఈ లోటుపాట్లు సవరించే నిమిత్తం ముందుగా ఈ అడవులను ఫారెస్టు, పంచాయతీల ఆధీనమందుంచవలసిన, ప్రజలు అడవులలోకిపోయి ఎందు చుట్టలు తెచ్చుకోవటానికి, పశువులను అడవులలో మేపుకోవటానికి, వచ్చి ఆకు, కంప తెచ్చుకోవడానికి అవకాశం కల్గజేయవలసిన దని కోరుచున్నాను. అంతే కాకుండా సముద్ర ప్రాంతంలోఉండే జాలరీ ప్రజలు స్వేచ్ఛగా ఆ ప్రాంతాలలో సంచరించి చేపలు పట్టుకోవడానికి, మావులు పన్నుకోవటానికి అవకాశం కల్గజేయవలసినదని ప్రభుత్వంవారికి మనవిచేస్తున్నాను. అంతే కాకుండా జిమిందార్లు, మొఖాసాదార్లనుంచి స్వాధీనంచేసుకొన్న అడవులలోని సాగుకు లాయకిఅయిన భూమిని, బంజరు భూములను అడవి భూములనిచెప్పి పేదలకు అన్యాయం చేసుకుండా వారికి సాగుకు యివ్వమనికోరుచున్నాను.

“అంతేకాకుండా అడవులను పెంచి, పోషించే విషయంలోకూడా ప్రభుత్వంవారు తగినంత శ్రద్ధ తీసు కోవలసిన కోరుచున్నాను. అడవులను సరిగా పెంచినట్లయితే వర్షములు సకాలంలో కురిసి కరువు కాటకాలకు ఎటువంటి అవకాశముండదని అందరకు తెలిసిపట్టువంటి విషయమే. ఈ విషయంలో సోవియట్ రిపబ్లిక్ అడవులను పెంచే విధానం భద్రాచరణగా తీసుకోండి. ముఖ్యంగా అడవులకు సమీపాన ఉన్న గ్రామముల లోని ప్రజలు ఎంతోకాలంగా అనుభవించుచున్న హక్కులను రద్దుచేయవద్దని కోరుచున్నాను. రైతులకు సప్తదాయకంగా పరిణమించే శాసనములు చేయవద్దని ప్రభుత్వంవారికి తెలియజేస్తూ ఇంతటితో విరమించుచున్నాను.”

* JANAB K. M. SEETHI:—“Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I propose to speak on this Demand to emphasize the point raised

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by the Muslim League Legislature Party in the cut motion which we have given notice of and which among other things, relates to the administration of the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act in the Malabar forests. Coming as I do from the Malabar district, I feel it my duty to bring to the notice of the Government the importance of the point that the vast possibilities of utilizing the minor produce of the Malabar forests like wax, honey, bamboos, reeds and rattan, for the purpose of starting very useful industries have to be explored by the Government and that greater attention than at present has to be devoted to this matter, and that steps have to be taken on the basis of the recommendations made by a delegation that had been deputed by the Government of India to go to Japan and report on the subject after making necessary investigations. This is going to be a source of very valuable income to the Government and I request the Hon. Minister to take early and necessary steps for investigating the possibilities of this line of industries.

“Coming to the administration of the Preservation of Private Forests Act, it is my regretful duty to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister that it has become a scandal in the district. I wish to observe that the working of the various provisions of the Preservation of Private Forests Act has not resulted in the preservation of the forests to any appreciable extent. As a matter of fact, I regret to say that the Act has only accentuated the destruction of the forests. The provisions of the Act are being evaded by certain people and no attempt has been made by the concerned authorities to check this. They must take steps to ensure the proper administration of this Act. This, they are not doing at present with the result that some of the officers of this department are reported to have become partners in the income derived out of these forests along with certain dealers in forest produce. Sir, this has become a regular scandal as I said, and it is freely said that a certain percentage is given to some of the forest officers for issuing unauthorized permits to dealers for removing timber from the forests and for certain other concessions. The post-war statistics, if taken, will show that there is a larger quantity of timber in the market now than at any time in the past. This is because a large quantity of timber has come to the market with the knowledge of the forest officers concerned and without obtaining regular permits from the officers. The dealers get surreptitious permission for removing the timber from the forests and bringing the same into the market. This is the reason why we find a large quantity of timber in the market at the present moment without profit to the State. I wish to take this opportunity to urge upon the Government that an emergent enquiry must be made into the working of the Preservation of Private Forests Act. On the basis of the recommendations submitted by such an enquiry committee, the Government might take adequate steps to ensure the preservation of the forests and avoid the abuses that are now going on without any check or control. Only if the Government take steps in this direction, they can achieve satisfactory results in the matter of preservation of forests and checking abuses.

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“As some of the forests are inaccessible to ordinary men, the forest administration also seems to be inaccessible to proper supervision and check. I wish to emphasize that the higher authorities of the Forest department must exercise greater check and control over the affairs of forest administration. I reiterate my request that an emergent enquiry might be made into the working of the Preservation of Private Forests Act, with special reference to the forests in the district of Malabar, and the Government might take suitable steps, on the basis of the results of such an enquiry, to ensure the better working of this Act.”

*SRI P. VENKATASWAMI REDDI :—“ Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Demand. దేశముయొక్క సహజ సంపదలలో అటవీ సంపద ప్రాధాన్యం వహించినది. కాని యుద్ధ కాలంలో దుర్బడిన క్లిష్ట పరిస్థితుల వల్ల అడవులు సమూలముగా నష్టముచేయబడినవి. వాూ భావమునకు యిదియు నూ ఒక కారణముగా శాస్త్రజ్ఞులు చెప్పుచున్నారు. ఇట్టి తీరి అడవులు హెచ్చుచేయడము ప్రభుత్వం ప్రాధాన్యముగా గమనింపదగియున్నది. ఈ సందర్భములో జమీందారి యిలాకాలోని అడవులు దే విధముగా నిర్లక్ష్యముచేయబడుచున్నవో మనవి చేయదలచు కున్నాను. జమీందార్లు ఆగ్రహారందార్లు అనేకమంది తమ ఎస్టేట్లను ప్రభుత్వమువారు స్వాధీనపరచుకోవడము చట్టసమ్మతముగా చెల్లినరెదని హాకొర్టులో రిక్యు file చేసి ప్రభుత్వమువారు సదరు ఎస్టేట్లకు సంబంధించి జాతీయ పట్టించుకోవడపని యింజె క్షను ఉత్తరువులు పొందియున్నారు. ఈ కారణములవల్ల ఎస్టేట్లలోని అడవులు మరల జమీందారుల స్వాధీనములోనికి వచ్చినవి. ఈ అడవులు వారు సొంతముగా నీరుపోసి సత్తుపెట్టి పెంచినవిగా తమ స్వయం ఆస్తిగామించి సమూలముగా నరికించి, విక్రయించి డబ్బు సంపాదించుకొనుచున్నారు. అక్రమముగా వారు డబ్బు సంపాదించుకోవడంకంటే అడవులను సమూలముగా నాశనముచేయడముద్వారా దేశానికి ఆనర్థము కలిగించబడుచున్నది.

“కేంద్ర ప్రభుత్వమువారు దరిమిలాన Constitution కు సవరణ ప్రతిపాదించి జమీందారి ఆచారిషత్ బిల్లు చెల్లునట్లుచేసినారు. ఇందుకై స్పెషిం కోర్టుకుమార్దా అప్పీలు జరిగి, జమీందారి ఆచారిషత్ బిల్లు చెల్లుతుందని తేల్చుజరిగియున్నది. ఇది జరిగి ఆరు మాసములకువేగా అయినది. కాని ప్రభుత్వంవారు త్వరపడి రిక్యు రద్దు పూరింపకుండా రోటింగ్ కోర్టులో జరిగేట్లు చూస్తున్నట్లున్నది. అట్లాగే తి యిక ఆరు మాసములకు యీవల యిది తీర్మానముకావు. ఈ లోపుగా అకూర్చుకొన అడవులు సంపూర్ణంగా నాశనముకాగలవు. అచ్చట రైతులకు అది తిరని గొడ్డలిపెట్టు కాగలదు. ప్రభుత్వమునకు వివరీత నష్టము కలుగును. నష్టము విలువ యింతయని estimate చేయుటకు శక్యముకాని పని. ఈ సందర్భములో జనెల్లూరు జిల్లాలో వెంకటగిరి జమీందారుగారుమార్దా రిట్ file చేసి అడవులు స్వాధీనముచేసుకొని యున్నారు. వెంకటగిరి అడవులలో మార్పు కనుములమార్దా చేరియున్నది. చాలా విలువగల అడవులు. వివరీత నష్టమునకు లోనగుచున్నవి. చిత్తూరు జిల్లాలో గొల్ల పల్లి, కలవరంబ అడవులు పూర్తిగా నరికివేయబడినవి. మహారు ఒకటిన్నర లక్షల రూపాయలు ఆ జమీందారు సంపాదించుకున్నాడు. అడ్వకేటు జనరలుకు directive యిచ్చి రిక్యు సాధ్యమైనంత త్వరలో రద్దుపరిపేచ తగునని ప్రార్థిస్తున్నాను. ఇది సాధ్యముకాకపోయినచో ordinance ద్వారానైనా యీ అటవీ సంపద నష్టపడకుండా చూడవలసిందని మనవిచేయుచున్నాను మరిన్ని వెంకటగిరి జమీందారుగారు రిక్యు రద్దు అగునని తెలిసి యెట్టి పరిస్థితులలోను అడవులు ప్రభుత్వమునకు స్వాధీనము

[Sri P. Venkataswami Reddi]

[23rd July 1952]

చేయగూడదని ఇరువది సంవత్సరముల లీజుకు ప్రభుత్వమును కోరియున్నారు. అందుపై forest అధికారులవచ్చి అడవులు తనిఖీచేసిపోయివున్నారు. కాని రైతుల ఆక్షేపాలు విచారించి తెలుసుకోలేదు. అప్పటి రైతులకు ఉడుకున్న (customary and prescriptive rights) అనాది అచార అనుభవ హక్కులు విషయమై కొన్ని సంవత్సరాలు జమీందారుతో పోరాడి వ్యవహారములు జరిగి, రైతు అనేక కష్టపట్టాలకు పాలై, తుదకు తనకు ఉన్నటువంటి కనీసపు హక్కులు వసతులు—అనగా పశువులను, గొర్రెలను, మేకలను మేపుకొనుట, కట్టె కంప వచ్చి ఆకు కొట్టుకొనుట మొదలగునవి, ఖరీదు చూఫేగా తెచ్చుకొనుటకు హక్కు స్థిరపడి అనుభవించుకొనుచున్నారు. ఇట్టితరీ అడవుల మరల జమీందారుకు లీజుకు యివ్వడము అనవసరముగా రైతులకు జమీందారుకు తగాదాలు కలిగించినట్లు అగును. కాని ఎట్టి పరిస్థితులలోను జమీందారుకు లీజుకు ఇవ్వకూడదని మనవిచేయుచున్నాను. అడవులన్నియు ప్రభుత్వం స్వాధీనపరచుకొని ప్రతి గ్రామమునకు సాముదాయిక ఖామీగా ఆయకట్టుకు చెందింతులకు తక్కువలేకుండా పశుసంపద ననుసరించి ఆకలిజర్నీ ఫ్రీండ్ వదలివేసి గ్రామ సాముదాయికమునకు free of charge తో కట్టె, కంప, ఆకు వగైరాలు తెచ్చుకొనుటకు, పశువులు, గొర్రెలు, మేకలు మేపుకొనుటకు క్రమపద్ధతిమీద వసతి కల్పించి ప్రభుత్వము control లోనే వుచుకొని మిగతా అడవులు reserve చేసి కాపాడవలయునని మనవిచేయుచున్నాను. ఇట్టి పద్ధతులు అమలుజరిగితేనే అటవీ సంపద కాపాడనగును.

“జమీందారీ రద్దు బిల్లులో “రైతులు అనాదిగా అనుభవించుచున్న అచార అనుభవ హక్కు”లకు భంగము కలుగకుండా చూడబడుననియున్నది. కాన settlement చేయునప్పుడు సక్రమంగా విచారించి రైతుల హక్కులు కాపాడతగునని మనవిచేయుచున్నాను.

“వెంకటగిరి జమీందారీ రైతులకు హక్కుల విషయమై తగాదాలు వచ్చినప్పుడు రైతులను అన్వేషణముల అడుపులో వుండుకోవలయునని మొత్తము అడవులు reserve చేసి Forest Act అమలుజరుపవలెనని unreserve చాలినంత వదలకుండా reserve చేయుటకు లైసు కొట్టించియున్నారు. కొన్నిచోట్ల ఈ లైసు గ్రామ సాగుబడి ఖామీలను అనుకొనియున్నది. ఎట్లేటు ప్రభుత్వము స్వాధీనముచేసికొన్న మిదట -డవులు reservation కు ప్రకాశము తయారుచేయుటకు Assistant Conservator of Forests వచ్చినప్పుడున్నా, Conservator of Forests తనిఖీకి వచ్చినప్పుడున్నా యీ సదర్శిము చెప్పుకున్నాము. కాన యివి అన్వీయన్నా ప్రిభుత్వము దృష్టిలో వుండుకొని జమీందారీ రైతులను అడుపులో వుండుకోవలెనని కొట్టించిన లైసు స్థిరపరచకుండా చాలినంత unreserve వదలివేసి రైతులయొక్క హక్కులను కాపాడవలసిందని ప్రభుత్వంవారికి కోరుతున్నాను.

“మరియు జమీందారుగారు ఈ అడవులలో అనేక వేల యెకరాలు తమ స్వంత కనుటం ఖామీలని తప్పుడువిధముగా తమకు కావలసినవారిపేర బినామీగా పట్టాలు వేసుకొనియున్నారు. ఈ విషయమై Commissioner for Settlement of Estates వచ్చినప్పుడు వారికినీ, ప్రభుత్వంవారికినీ memorandum ద్వారా తెలుపుకొనియున్నాము. కాని దరిమిలా వివిధ జరిగినదిన్నీ తెలియదు. ఇట్టి అన్యాయాలు జరుగకుండా అమూల్యగంగా విచారణ జరిపి సదరు పట్టాలు రద్దుపరిపించవలెనని ప్రభుత్వంవారికి మనవిచేయుచున్నాను.

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* SRI T. LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDI :—“ Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, forests constitute a nation's greatest wealth. At present, people are not made to realize that forests are the greatest national wealth. I do not criticize the Hon. Minister who is in charge of this portfolio for this state of affairs. The previous Ministers had for a very long time neglected the forests. People have not been educated about the usefulness of the forests. That is the reason why crimes have increased. People go into the forests and cut down the trees. They do not realize the value of wood and the consequent loss to the State. If they had been educated, they would not have gone into the forests to cut down wood, and many crimes could have been prevented. There are reserved forests and the Government have completely neglected these areas. People from my area have been complaining for decades that the reserved forests are neglected by the Government. This is the complaint from every section and from every quarter. Each area is in charge of a guard and a watcher. The reason why cutting of trees is going on is that the area is in charge of these two people, who are ill-paid. Because they are ill-paid, they are forced to take illegal gratification. Their wages and salaries are taken for the supplies of the Assistant Conservators and others and the watchmen and guards are forced to resort to such illicit means. I do not say that all District Forest Officers and Assistant Conservators are such. But many depend upon the poor guards for their maintenance—for supplies and services. Many of the guards give away their salaries to the rangers and others above. When they give away their salaries, how are they to maintain themselves? Naturally they foist cases on innocent persons and take money. This is the root cause of corruption. Men at the top are to blame. If the guards and watchers are given better wages and if men at the top behave better, they will protect the forests and preserve the wealth. I know certain circulars have been sent to these officers to behave properly but no action appears to have been taken on these circulars. The general complaint continues as before.

“ Then, Sir, in certain forests, cows and sheep are allowed to graze and there is a permit system obtaining for this purpose. But this does not give full relief. There are a good number of tanks and wells in the reserved forests constructed long ago by our ancestors, may be with a philanthropic motive, to supply water to the cattle. But this civilized Government have not done anything even to repair those tanks and wells. It is sheer injustice to the villagers who send their cows and sheep for grazing in the forests that these tanks remain unrepaired. Of course, during famines, these are repaired. One cannot expect a famine to occur everywhere to make one think of repairing the tanks. I would request the Government to undertake immediately repair works so far as tanks and wells in the reserved forests are concerned.

“ Then, Sir, plantations have to be improved. Plantation is the most important aspect of afforestation. If the Government want the ryots to contribute to the forest wealth of the nation, they must undertake fresh plantations. This work can be undertaken during

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the rainy season but it is not being done now. The existing plantations need to be improved. Also, fresh plantations have to be undertaken every year. If not, the forest wealth will decrease year by year and we cannot afford to forgo this national wealth.

" Sir, I was referring to the permit system for grazing purposes. In my district, there are some closed areas. These areas are opened only when famine comes. I suggest that they should be kept open every summer. If we take statistics, we will find that these areas are silently destroyed by certain mischievous elements. In order to avoid the wastage of forest wealth in this way, the Government can allow cows and sheep to enter these areas by keeping them open at least in summer. There are a large number of cows in my place—Bukkapatnam—which have to go ten or fifteen miles for grazing in the reserved forests. I suggest that these cows can be allowed to have penning in reserved forests for a little fee. This can be done without any loss to the department.

" Sir, forest crimes have increased from 32,000 in 1935-36 to a very high figure now. The income from fines and forfeitures has risen from Rs. 32,500 to Rs. 57,21,000. Crime is increasing and it is not as if the people are committing offences for offence's sake. It is because, poverty is there. Poverty is at the root of crime. Instead of tackling the root cause, there is no use of catching hold of people who carry headloads of wood or manure leaves. Have more plantations and give better wages to the forest guards and watchers. They are to-day poverty-stricken and downtrodden. Give them something and they will save all the wealth of the forests.

" Sir, the fundamental reason why all this happens is, the Forest officers and the head of the department, whenever they inspect the forest areas, do not contact the people around. They do not get into touch with the people of the surrounding areas. If they contact them, they will know their grievances and take their suggestions also. This will enable the department to do something good for them and the villagers themselves will be the best guards of the forests. By mingling and mixing with these people, the departmental officials can ensure the safety of the forests. I hope the Government will take note of this suggestion.

" With these few remarks, Sir, I support the Cut Motion."

SRI P. BAPU NAIDU :—"అధ్యక్షా, మదరాసు రాజధానిలో ఫారెస్టు నిబంధనలు వివిధ రకములుగా ఉన్నవి. ఈ నిబంధనలు ప్రభుత్వమువారిచే ప్రవేశపెట్టబడి బహుశాలమైనది. అప్పటి ప్రభుత్వము అప్పటి పరిస్థితుల ననుసరించి అటువంటి చట్ట నిబంధనను ఏర్పాటుచేసినది. నాటికి నేటికి పరిస్థితులు చాలా మారింది. కనుక, ప్రభుత్వమువారు ప్రత్యేకముగా ఒక నిపుణుల సంఘమును నియమించి, ఈ సంఘమువారు అటువంటి ప్రదేశములలో పర్యటించి, ఆయా ప్రాంతీయ ప్రజలకు అటువంటి సంపద నుపయోగించుకొన గలుగుదుమంటి అవకాశములను కల్పించుటగా ఈ అటువంటి చట్ట నిబంధనలను సవరించవలెనని కోరుచున్నాను. ప్రస్తుతము అటువంటి శాఖలో పనిచేయుచున్న ఉద్యోగస్తులు పూర్తిగా నైతికవత్సము జేందియున్నారు. వీరు విద్యప్రజలచే చేస్తున్న దౌర్జన్యములు రానురాను ప్రబలుచున్నవి. ఇటువంటి వీరి ప్రవర్తనవల్ల పలు

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అటవీక ప్రాంతములలో ప్రజలకు సహజము తప్పి, శాంతికి భంగమువాటిలే పరిస్థితులు ఏర్పడినవి. కనుక ప్రభుత్వము ఈ విషయములను గురించి త్వరగా తగు చర్యలను తీసుకొనవలెనని కోరుచున్నాను.

“తరువాత అటవీ ప్రాంతీయాధివృద్ధి గురించి కొన్ని సూచనలు ప్రభుత్వము నకు మనవి చేయుచున్నాను.

“గంజాము జిల్లాలో దిగువ లోయ ప్రాంతములు పోడు వ్యవసాయము చేసు 1 p.m కొనుటకు అనకూలించబడినవి. ఈ విధముగా పోడు వ్యవసాయము చేసుకొనుటవల్ల సాధారణ సాంకేతిక శాస్త్రీయ-పద్ధతుల దృష్ట్యా ఏ విధమైన హాని జరగలేదని అనుభవముపైనే రుజువైనది. కనుక ఆయా ప్రాంత ప్రజలు ఈ విధముగా పోడు వ్యవసాయము చేసుకొనే అవకాశము కల్పించి వారిని అర్థిక యిబ్బందులనుండి విముక్తి చేయుటకు ప్రయత్నించవలెనని కోరుచున్నాను. మరియు ప్రజల అడవులలో కట్టెలు గొట్టుకొనుటకును, పశువులు, గొర్రెలు, మేకలు మేపుకొనుటకును పూర్తి అవకాశము కల్పించవలెననికూడ కోరుచున్నాను. పశువుల పుల్లెగిమీద 5 లక్షల రూపాయలు హత్రమే ఆదాయము వస్తున్నది. కాని ఈ పుల్లెగి పేరుతో ప్రజలకు ఒక గోటి రూపాయల నష్టము; తాదా, అవసూనము కలుగుచున్నది.

“అటవీ లోయలలో వివిధ ఫలవృక్షములను పెంచి ఒక ప్రక్కన ఆదాయము, తిండి అభివృద్ధిచేసి, మరొక ప్రక్కన బహిష్కరించిన చెట్లను పెంచవచ్చును. విశేష పట్నం జిల్లాలో సీంహాచలము, మువదార ట్ట్రేము, తలకొన మొదలగు మేడ్తలాల వద్ద పెంపె తోటలను ఆదర్శముగా పెట్టుకొని, కొండ లోయలలో రైతులు తోటలు పెంచేందుకు పట్టులు ఇవ్వవలెనని కోరుచున్నాను. మరియు, పడమట సముద్రతీరాన కొండలమీద, జరియలమీద పెంచే జీడి తోటలు, టీ, కాఫీ, రబ్బరు తోటలవలె, ఒక 50 లక్షల రూపాయల ఖర్చుపెట్టే తూర్పు సముద్రతీర ప్రాంతపు అడవులలో, విశేష పట్నం జిల్లాలోపూడా ఇటువంటి తోటలు పెంచవలెనని మనవి చేయుచున్నాను.

“రైతులకు వ్యవసాయమునకును గృహనిర్మాణమునకును అవసరమైన కలశ, పెదురు, గడ్డి ప్రభుత్వము స్వల్ప ధరలతో ఇచ్చి, ఫారెస్టు రైతులకొరకే ఉన్నదని రుజువుచేసినచో, అడవి నాశనము తగ్గిపోవును.

“తరువాత ప్రభుత్వములో అన్ని డిపార్టుమెంటుల గురించి ప్రహేళిక, ప్రచారము జరుగుచున్నదిగాని ప్రాజాధార మైనటువంటి ఫారెస్టు సంపద అభివృద్ధిని గురించి విలాటి సుచారము జరుగుటలేదు. కనుక దీనిని గురించి కరపత్రములు, ప్రచురణలు, పటముల ద్వారా ప్రచారము సాగించవలెనని కోరుచున్నాను.

“ఇంక, అడవి ప్రక్కలనుండి రైతులయొక్క ఇబ్బందుల విషయములలో, వీరి గోడు వర్ణింపవలెగాదు. కొండలనుండి వేగమున ప్రవహించే చిత్తరు, వంకలకు గ్రామాల వద్ద సరియైన రోడ్లు, వంతెనలు లేనందున అనేక పశువులు ఏటా నష్టముగావడము, నేడవు పనులు అగిపోవడము, సాహసించి ఈ వంకలను బాటుటకు ప్రయత్నించు మనుష్యులు అందులో చిక్కకొని చావడము తటస్థించుచున్నది. ఫాబట్టి ప్రభుత్వము అటవీ ప్రాంత గ్రామాలకు ఎక్కువ రోడ్లును, వంతెనలను సేవ్కో చేస్తూ, ఇంతకు ముందు మనవిచేసిన తదితర సౌకర్యములన్నియు కలుగజేయవలెనని కోరుచు విరలు మున్నాను.”

* SRI M. VENKATASUBBA REDDI:—“Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a regrettable fact that ever since the Congress came into power, it has failed to implement the resolutions passed

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by it when it was fighting the British Government for the freedom of our country. Then the Congress used to say that it would abolish this 'Pullary' tax, that is, the grazing fees, if it came to power and thus improve the cattle prosperity of this country. It is absolutely essential that, in an agricultural country like India, Government should allow the cattle to graze freely in the forests. But the Congress Government not only imposed the grazing fee but enforced it strictly. Due to the recent floods in the Rayalaseema area, there has been a heavy loss of cattle. Thousands and thousands of sheep, goats and other cattle were destroyed. The Yadhava community was the worst affected by this flood. In order to serve these poor people at least, Government should give up collecting the grazing fees and allow them to graze the cattle in the forests free without paying any tax. There is no use of sanctioning loans to them which they cannot repay unless they are helped to improve their cattle by removing the tax.

"Sir, in Banganapalle State, there are a number of barren hills with no vegetation, with not even a tree worth the name. After the merger of the State, the Government have demarcated these areas under reserved forests, though they are barren, and are putting the people to unnecessary suffering. Petitions and mahazars were sent to the Government for the cancellation of this demarcation of reserved forests. An agitation against this was also put up by the people. But so far there has been no response from the Government. I would request the Government not to demarcate the forests indiscriminately as reserved forests.

"Then, Sir, I would like to make a suggestion regarding disafforestation of areas where the lands are fertile and could be brought under cultivation with the least effort and expenditure. Government may not approve of my suggestion when they are engaged in carrying out the tree-planting programme. But I feel Government can overlook this fact and allow disafforestation in order to bring more lands under cultivation and thus help the Grow More Food Campaign. In my constituency, there are some deserted villages like Seetharamapuram and Vajragiri. These are now demarcated under reserved forests in spite of the fact that there is not even a single tree worth the name in the area. It is but proper that Government should allow such areas to be brought under cultivation by forming land colonization schemes and thus help people to grow more food. Further, there is a feeder channel which flows into the Jwalapuram tank. With minimum expenditure, bunds could be constructed alongside of the channel, and hundreds of acres could be brought under cultivation.

"Sir, I appeal to the Government that wherever there are fertile lands and wherever there is the possibility of disafforestation, they would do well to disafforest that area and bring the lands under cultivation. With these few words, I resume my seat."

(At this stage, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

1-10 p.m. * THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, within the short time that you have been kind enough to allow for the debate on this Demand, as many as sixteen hon. Members have

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spoken and given their valuable suggestions on the various problems affecting the forest policy and the utilization of forest products in this State. It would be very difficult for me to go one by one into the various points that have been raised by the hon. Members. But I will try to reply to the various points which relate to general policies.

"One important change was made about 25 years ago in the forest administration of this country. Previous to that, so far as I can remember, the forest administration was in the hands of the Government, free from non-official influence. As far back as 1912, the question was raised whether it would not be proper to bring some element of non-official influence into the administration of forests. Sir, the matter was discussed and conferences were held, but the First World War intervened. Later, it was decided that what are known as ryot's forests, i.e., the fringe of the forests with which the ryot comes into touch, should be managed by the villagers themselves. In 1925, forest panchayats were organized and they came into force, I believe, almost all over Madras especially in areas other than the zamindari forests. So, for the next 20 years, the forest panchayats had been taking care of the forests. I do not think there is any hon. Member in this House who comes from a rural constituency and who is not in touch with the working of the forest panchayats. Sir, I do not want to go into details of what has happened. From 1946 onwards, investigation was made into the working of the forest panchayats and it was found that forests suffered during the last 25 years and that the forest panchayats that were under the control of the Revenue Department had not delivered the goods and had not been able to serve the purpose for which they were intended; so it was decided that these forest panchayats should be abolished and that the forests should be taken back by the Forest Department. It was quite recently that the Forest Department took over the forests from the panchayats.

"If I may try to analyse the points, hon. Members seemed to express that the cultivator, the grazier and the ryot are suffering quite a lot when they come in contact with the guard or the watcher or the ranger. It is, of course, difficult to make the cultivator feel that the guard is there to watch the forests and the ranger to take care of the forests and that the forests cannot be used indiscriminately. But the cultivator says there is considerable amount of corruption in the lower ranks of the Forest administration. Sir, this department is always ready to put down corruption and whenever specific complaints have been brought to the notice of the Government, they have taken adequate steps to see that such things do not recur.

"The hon. Member Mr. Siddanna Gowd who moved the cut motion and one other hon. Member suggested that it would be better if a non-official advisory body could be constituted in the villages which would act probably as a liaison between the departmental officers and the cultivators, and that it might be able to solve the problem that the cultivator was up against. Sir, this is a matter which requires consideration: It is only recently that we

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have abolished the forest panchayats. Therefore, this suggestion, coming as it does from the hon. Member Mr. Siddanna Gowd who has had much to do with forests, will be considered.

"Another point of great general importance that has been touched here is about the forests that have been taken over from the zamindars. Sir, I wish to say that, during this transition period of taking over of the estate forests by the Government, the rights and privileges that were being enjoyed by the cultivators and the ryots in those areas, will not be disturbed. At present, except stopping the admission of goats into these estate forests, almost all the privileges that the cultivators were enjoying before are being allowed."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—"Has not the Hon. Minister received several representations from the villagers near the outlying forests of Vizianagaram and Tuni zamindaris and elsewhere that the ryots are prevented from enjoying their customary rights which they used to enjoy when the forests were in the possession of the zamindars and that they are now deprived of them?"

* THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—"There has been some confusion in this matter. We have taken steps to instruct the forest guards and other departmental officers who are in charge of these forests that until further orders, the privileges and concessions they were enjoying before should be allowed even now."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—"They are not reaching the ryots."

* THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—"I can give a copy of the order to the hon. the Leader of the Opposition if he wants."

1-20
p m. "Sir, it was suggested that dry brushwood in the forests in Tuni zamindari area, could be offered for sale at a nominal rate. This matter is engaging the attention of the Government. So long as it is not found to be detrimental to the forest interests, we have no objection to allow private parties to purchase dry brushwood, until we introduce the coupe system in the zamindari areas."

"Many hon. Members of this House complained about the 'closing period'. In fact many hon. Members do not know the exact meaning which the expression conveys. Even though the panchayat forests were meant to be closed during the two months of June and July for grazing purposes, in reality such a thing was not done. Though the orders to that effect are in the papers, they were not carried out in practice. The order was not put into force in the panchayat forests. So, as soon as the Government took over the forests in areas which were hitherto under panchayats, they introduced the change. Some hon. Members seem to be worried about this change. In some of the areas wherein this change has caused hardship, we have issued instructions that the closing period should be held in abeyance."

"The hon. Member, Mr. Seethi Sahib, has asked us whether we could not appoint an enquiry committee to go into the working

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of the Preservation of Private Forests Act as applied to Malabar. I may tell the hon. Member straightway that this matter will be carefully gone into. I may also tell hon. Members of this House that the Madras Forest Act of 1882 will be amended suitably so that we could give better protection to private as well as Government forests. The other points which the hon. Member Mr. Seethi Sahib referred to, will be taken due note of.

"There is one other interesting point which some hon. Members have referred to. It has been alleged that in some of the estate forests even though they have been nominally registered as forests, cultivation has been going on. The hon. Gentleman Mr. Venkateswarlu asked: where some portions of the forests under Government control had been allowed for cultivation, why could not the Government consider the suggestion to assign these lands on patta? This is not a matter on which any generalisation could be made. As I said, at the time of introducing this Demand, only 15 per cent of the total area of Madras State is under forests. In any country normally at least 25 per cent of the area should be under forests. Unfortunately in this country we do not have even one-fourth of our area under forests. All hon. Members know that our rainfall depends to a very large extent upon the extent of our forests. If we allow portions of our forests to be cultivated indiscriminately what will happen? Our rainfall will be seriously affected. That is a factor which we should never lose sight of.

"One of the hon. Members urged the necessity to appoint gumasthas for issue of licences. This is another question which has been affecting our forest administration. Hitherto we have been issuing licences for grazing sheep and taking dry wood from our forests. Hitherto it was the forest panchayat president who issued the licence. Now the licences are issued by the forest rangers. Sometimes the cultivator has to travel long distances—even twenty to thirty miles—to meet the ranger and get the licence. A suggestion has been made by the hon. Member Mr. Siddanna Gowd that the Government could consider the appointment of gumasthas for this purpose. While I agree that it is a worthwhile suggestion, I am afraid it would not be economical. Government will have to pay something for these gumasthas by way of commission. There has been another suggestion that we may have an informal or advisory body for this purpose. The Government will carefully consider the suggestion and will soon take a decision on this matter.

"While dealing with the question of cultivation of some forest lands, I should like to refer to the *kumri* system of cultivation that is practised in some of our forests. Many of the hon. Members in this House may not be quite familiar with the *kumri* system of cultivation. I shall try to explain it. By *kumri* system is meant the raising of trees in rows in forests and producing crops in between the rows. Up to the time the trees grow into big ones, which would take normally between three and four years, the cultivation is carried on. Then it is put a stop to. The special feature in this system is that side by side with the growing of

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trees, the crops are also raised. Both growth of trees and cultivation are thus encouraged. We have found this a useful experiment. Wherever possible, the Forest Department has been advocating this *kumri* system of cultivation in the forests.

"The Speaker had been kind enough to allot twenty minutes for my reply. I think I have sufficiently covered my ground in that limited time. I have replied to many of the criticisms of hon. Members of this House about our forest administration.

"Before I close, I would like to touch upon the points which the hon. Member Mr. Bapanna Dora had made in his speech. I should like to pay a tribute to Mr. Bapanna Dora for the beautiful Telugu speech he made. I was moved while I heard it. Mr. Dora was referring to the sufferings which the poor hillman was put to in the Agency areas. He made certain general allegations and wanted that the Government should take action. I may point out that it is not enough if we send a circular stating: 'Do not use the hillman to carry your dholi.' Such a circular won't be giving effect to my friend's wishes. But if my friend Mr. Dora will give me some specific instances . . ."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—"Hundreds of them."

* THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—"One instance will be enough for me from the Leader of the Opposition, to take action. As I was saying, if my friend will give me specific instances, we will be able to take action, and within a very short time we will be able to put down this bad habit.

"My friend also referred to the forest officers snatching away pumpkins,—Gummidikaya and Budithagummidikaya—belonging to the hillmen. Again, if the hon. Member will give specific instances, we will not hesitate to take action, and we will see that the matter is set right.

"There is one more point which the hon. Member Mr. Siddanna Gowd mentioned, viz., about the uniformity of rates of grazing fees to be fixed for these forests. He is himself a person well acquainted with forests and he knows that it was the panchayats that fixed all sorts of rates for the grazing of cattle. Government have only one uniform rate, but it is the panchayats that fix varying rates such as 4 annas, 8 annas, 1 rupee and so on. I think the hon. Member also mentioned Re. 1-4-0 as the rate in one instance. Well, Sir, I may inform this House that we have just taken over these panchayat forests, and this question of having a uniform rate will be gone into. But may I tell the hon. Member that the Government rates which are very low, were fixed very very long ago: and if the panchayat rates are now found to be very reasonable, I cannot understand why we should not keep them."

SRI R. SIDDANNA GOWD :—"The rates were fixed in the year 1947."

* THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—"Anyhow, this question of uniformity will be gone into. It has got only one merit,

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[Dr. R. Nagaa Gouda]

and that is, that the cultivator will know that the rate of grazing fee he has to pay for a cow or a sheep or a buffalo is fixed—it does not matter which forest it is—and it will be very convenient for him. As I said, this will be gone into.

“ Sir, I hope that within the short time which has been allowed to me, I have tried to answer the various points that have been raised by the various speakers. I now request the hon. Mover of the cut motion to withdraw it.”

SRI R. SIDDANNA GOWD :—“ I press my cut motion, Sir.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ I now put the cut motion to the vote of the House. The question is—

‘ That the allotment of Rs. 83,48,000 for Forest, be reduced by Rs. 100.’ ”

The motion was declared lost.

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—“ I demand a poll, Sir.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ I want to know if the hon. Member presses for a division. It is already past 1-30 p.m. now.”

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—“ That seems to be the desire of the Members.”

(The bell was rung for two minutes and hon. Members were seen entering the Chamber and taking their seats.)

MR. SPEAKER :—“ I now understand that the Opposition Members are not pressing for a division. I shall again put the cut motion to the vote of the House. The question is—

‘ That the allotment of Rs. 83,48,000 for Forest, be reduced by Rs. 100.’ ”

The cut motion was lost.

MR. SPEAKER :—“ I will now put the original Motion to the vote of the House. The question is—

‘ That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 83,48,000 under Demand IV—Forest.’ ”

The Demand was carried and the Grant was made.

MR. SPEAKER :—“ The House will now adjourn for lunch and meet again at 2-30 p.m.”

(After lunch 2-30 p.m.)

MR. SPEAKER :—“ To-morrow, day after to-morrow and on Saturday the House will sit till 8 p.m.”